



THE TIMES

TUESDAY MAY 11 1982

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Prior hint on assembly powers

The Government was prepared to concede that the proposed Northern Ireland Assembly should be allowed to debate matters of security and law and order, Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State, indicated. As recently as last month he ruled out the possibility of the assembly debating security matters.

Woman and girl stabbed to death

A woman and a girl were found stabbed to death on a wooded track leading to an army firing range near Aldershot. Their dog was guarding the bodies.

Arsenal boycott Argentine tour

Terry Neill, the Arsenal manager, will not release his Irish defenders, John Devine and David O'Leary, for next week's friendly match between the Republic of Ireland and Argentina. Ron Greenwood, the England manager, has announced his initial squad for the World Cup finals.

Britain will not 'buy' sanctions

Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, said in Brussels that Britain would not buy EEC sanctions against Argentina by agreeing to an increase in farm prices, nor permit a majority decision to impose the increase.

Trade surplus for UK

The United Kingdom had an overseas trade surplus of £174m in February after a deficit of £132m in January. There was also an estimated surplus of £480m in February for invisible trade.

Fire families' leave to appeal

Families of 13 young black people who died in a fire at Deptford, south-east London, in January last year have been given leave to challenge the open verdict returned at the inquest.

Alliance gaffe

Mr Paul Taylor, the Liberal-SDP Alliance prospective candidate in the Beaconsfield by-election, embarrassed Social Democratic Party leaders by saying the parties had agreed on an incomes policy.

Stubble drive

The National Farmers' Union has launched a campaign to prevent careless and irresponsible straw and stubble burning. It wants the maximum fine raised from £500 to £1,000.

Nurses clash

Three people were arrested after nurses clashed with pickets at the strike hit district general hospital.

Envoys expelled

Poland is expelling two American diplomats it says were caught receiving information from a Polish scientist previously interned under martial law.

Siege 'imminent'

Iranian troops were poised to besiege the strategic city of Khorramshahr in their latest offensive in the Gulf war, Tehran radio reported.

West warned by Solzhenitsyn

Alexander Solzhenitsyn in an article in *The Times* today despairing of Western attitudes in the face of nuclear threat and claims that the TV generation prefers to film the march of totalitarianism rather than stop it.

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Navy again bombard Falklands as negotiations drag on

Royal Navy warships bombarded military targets around Port Stanley for the second successive night while warships armed with anti-aircraft missiles closed on the Argentine garrison.

In Buenos Aires it appeared that the junta, in a slight shift of ground, might accept joint government of the Falklands.

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

FALKLANDS ROUNDUP

Sign of shift by Argentina over sovereignty 6

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There had been evidence to suggest any breaches.

The latest signs of naval activity came shortly after reports that the burnt-out Argentine intelligence-gathering trawler Narwhal had both sunk in heavy seas off the Falklands.

There will be sadness over the loss of the Sheffield, struck by an Exocet missile a week ago, and controversy over the unexplained Narwhal which was apparently holed by a bomb and by 30mm cannon fire when it was attacked by Sea Harriers at the weekend.

There were 11 casualties among the Argentine crew when the Narwhal, which had been spying on the British task force, was struck, then captured and boarded by British forces. One of those wounded later died.

First reports in London said that there had been casualties and that the Harrier bomb had been dropped nearby as a warning to the crew to surrender.

The Ministry admitted later on Sunday that a number of the crew had been wounded, but it was not until yesterday when a Press Association report recorded the findings of the boarding party.

His full extent of injuries was not known.

The Government was actively considering the possibilities of a long-term settlement once Argentine troops had been withdrawn.

Among various options for the Falklands and its dependencies was the creation of an associated territory, a United Nations trusteeship or a condominium.

There were particular problems with the last, he believed.

He made it clear that the Government would not agree to a ceasefire unless accompanied by a complete withdrawal of Argentine troops. Otherwise he indicated the Argentines would play a waiting game.

Mr Pym said the Government was very concerned at the way the BBC had reported the dispute and urged listeners to be fair.

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lands for a brief period before assuming sole rule.

Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, said he was confident of renewed EEC sanctions on Argentina.

He reported to the inner Cabinet on the slow progress of United Nations mediation.

The bomb had apparently hit the forecastle but had not detonated and it is not known if it contributed to the eventual demise of the boat.

The 11 crew who had been unhurt in the incident and the British boarding party were apparently evacuated some time after midnight, when the trawler developed a list to starboard. It was south-east of the Falklands at the time it went down.

Mr McDonald protested at his briefing that the Narwhal constituted a threat to the task force despite being unarmed. It could have summoned a submarine to attack British ships, he said, and had been warned several times to withdraw.

Less is so far known about the Sheffield, except that it was under tow when it sank, a chined steel midships anyway — as a result of the fire which followed the missile explosion. It was a victim of the bad weather which finally overcame the Narwhal.

Mr McDonald said he was sure that the ship had been examined by a boarding party from the task force before it sank. Twenty sailors lost their lives in the disaster.

The fate of the two vessels, casualties of the Falklands continuing expectation of more intensive operations round or even on the islands as the task force entered its sixth week at sea.

One indication of the density of aircraft now using Ascension Island, the force's halfway base in the Atlantic, is that an air traffic control zone has been declared 100 miles around the runway. All aircraft entering it have to file a flight plan.

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Pope calls cardinals to advise on visit

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Pope has summoned Cardinal Gray of Edinburgh and Cardinal Hume of Westminster to Rome for an urgent meeting on the Falkland Islands crisis. They left Britain yesterday for a private meeting with the Pope last night, which could be followed by a further meeting today.

The two cardinals had not been told in advance what the Pope wished to discuss. There was inevitable speculation that he was waiting for advice on the possibility of cancelling his visit to Britain later this month, but it is also said in official circles that the Pope may be thinking of a more positive intervention in the crisis itself.

The two British cardinals have already discussed their positions on a possible cancellation and agreed that their advice to the Pope at the moment is to go ahead.

It is feared that cancellation would be interpreted by public opinion as a pro-Argentine move. But they admit, apparently, that at a certain level of conflict in the South Atlantic it would not be prudent to proceed.

Until the papal summons to the two cardinals became known, however, he insisted that the visit was secure. At a press conference in Manchester yesterday Mr John Allen, in charge of the visit to the city, repeated the assurance given last week by Mr Derek Worlock, the Archbishop of Liverpool.

It is understood that Cardinal Hume knows that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, about cancelling his visit, and that there is to great difference between the two.

It was emphasised in Roman Catholic circles yesterday that the two cardinals, and undoubtedly the Pope, are far more concerned about the Falkland Islands crisis than about the papal visit.

So far the Pope has spoken of the crisis only in general terms, though he has more than once called this context for the upholding of the principle of territorial integrity, a phrase welcomed on the British side.

One speculation, whose basis is uncertain, is that the Pope might decide to make an urgent visit to Argentina after his visit to Britain, taking a message of peace to both countries. Some observers consider this the kind of move that could appeal to him.

Rome: The two British cardinals were at the Vatican last night and Cardinal Hume is known to have gone to the meeting with very intention of advising the Pope to go ahead with the visit (Peter Nichols writes).

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Emergency Cabinet meeting after PLO shells Galilee

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, May 10

Mr Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Defence Minister, received conflicting advice today from mayors and local council chairmen in Galilee about how to prevent last night's guerrilla bombardments from southern Lebanon escalating into a full-scale war of attrition.

The four-hour intermittent bombardment — the first guerrilla shelling of Israeli territory from Lebanon since the ceasefire agreement last July — caused no damage or casualties, according to the Army.

Military sources here dismissed speculation that the Palestinians deliberately limited their response to the Israeli air raids on Palestinian bases last night.

They said more than 100 Katyusha rockets and artillery shells had hit Israeli territory. Residents had spent the night in bomb shelters.

Beirut: The Palestine Liberation Organization claimed tonight that its bombardment of Israeli border settlements was merely "a tactical response" to the Israeli air raids, rather than the end of the ceasefire in southern Lebanon (Robert Fisk writes).

At least 12 Palestinians were killed and more than 30 wounded yesterday when the Israelis unexpectedly launched their second air assault on Palestinian positions in Lebanon in three weeks.

Palestinian anti-aircraft guns fired at Israeli jets overflying Beirut today, but there was no further Israeli attempt to bomb PLO bases — and the PLO fired no more missiles into Northern Israel.

If nothing else, Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, has learnt the principles of the measured response.

Britain severely criticized Israel for the raids. The Foreign Office said renewed conflict in Lebanon was in no one's interest and Israeli attacks were a further breach of the ceasefire.

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Taxi fares go up by 10%

London taxi fares are to rise by an average of 10 per cent from May 30. Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said in a Commons written reply yesterday.

The new tariff will operate by shortening time and distance purchased by the initial hiring fee and increments, and by increasing the surcharges for unsocial hours. The minimum fare of 50p will cover the first 630 yards or two minutes, 24 seconds; the rate will then be 10p for each 315 yards, (compared to the present 354 yards) or one minute, 12 seconds, (1 minute, 48 seconds) up to six miles, and 10p for each 210 yards (236 yards) or 48 seconds, (1 minute, 12 seconds) thereafter.

The weekday nights and Saturdays surcharge will rise from 30p to 40p, and Saturday nights, Sundays and public holiday from 50p to 60p. The Christmas Day surcharge will be doubled to £2.

Police officer defrauded board

Richard John Savage, aged 34, a police inspector at Swansea docks, was given a nine months' prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, at Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court yesterday after being found guilty of conspiring to defraud the docks board. He built an extension to his home using docks board workers, material and transport, the court was told.

Walford Phillips, aged 51, the docks works supervisor, of Llansamlet, Swansea, was also found guilty of conspiracy. Sentencing was deferred.

GLC Tory leader

Mr Richard Brew, aged 52, a barrister, farmer and racehorse owner, was elected leader of the Conservative group on the Greater London Council yesterday. Mr Brew, who was deputy leader takes over from Sir Horace Cutler, who is stepping down.

Jenner donation

Mr Ryoichi Sasaki, aged 81, a Japanese philanthropist and businessman, yesterday presented the Jenner Trust with £500,000 to enable it to buy the house in Berkeley, Gloucestershire, where in 1796 Dr Edward Jenner demonstrated the success of vaccination against smallpox.

Rate error

An accounting mistake may cost 900 house holders around Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, an extra £100 on their water rates. The Anglian Water Authority has discovered that the district council omitted some charges from accounts in 1979.

Tory choice

Mr Robert Key, aged 36, a master at Harrow School, has been adopted as prospective parliamentary Conservative candidate for Salisbury. Mr Michael Hamilton, the present Conservative MP, said in November that he would retire at the next election.

Potholer killed

Mr Edward Holstead, aged 29, of Darley Dale, near Matlock, Derbyshire, fell to his death yesterday down a 360 ft shaft while potholing in the Gaping Ghyll cave, near Settle, North Yorkshire. A colleague, Mr Peter Byard, was slightly injured.

£100 for bravery

Police Constables, David Olds and Russell Cherry, who were severely wounded when a car driver they were questioning last year attacked them with a knife in north London, received £100 bravery awards at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday. The man has not been caught.

Cruise pair die

Two teenagers who were found dead on Sunday while on a cruising holiday on the Norfolk Broads were named yesterday as Lorraine Winters and John Murphy, both aged 17, from New Addington, near Croydon, South London.

Cell death ruling

A Bristol inquest jury returned a verdict of accidental death yesterday on Mr David Cunningham, aged 58, who died in a police cell from a fractured skull. They said in a rider that the injury was received in a series of falls before his arrest.

Aslef men under more pressure over new rosters

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Public pressure increased last night on train drivers' leaders to accept Lord McCarthy's report on their dispute when Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) said its findings were a vindication of its members' acceptance of flexible rostering.

In his first public comment on the report of the Railway Staff National Tribunal Mr Weighell said: "We have studied the report carefully and it is in line with NUR policy. It fully vindicates the stand that we took."

Mr Weighell was speaking during a break in a meeting of his executive called to discuss the report, which supports British Rail on the principle of ending the train drivers' eight-hour day.

The key union involved, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef), which held 17 one-day strikes over the issue at the beginning of the year, is to discuss the report at a meeting of its executive tomorrow.

Mr Weighell, after more than two hours of sometimes heated discussion last night, failed to secure a simple statement of assent to the report from his executive, largely because the discussion broadened into complaints about British Rail's conduct on a wide range of issues, including pay, productivity, and investment.

Some members of the executive expressed particular anger about indications from British Rail at the weekend that fruitful annual wage negotiations would not take place until the management had secured Aslef's agreement to flexible rostering.

The NUR, which represents about 1,500 of British Rail's 24,000 drivers and assistants, has accepted flexible rostering on behalf of its 12,000 guards, and local discussions to continue quickly.

Of the 300 depots where guards are based, agreements have been reached in 237 and British Rail says the new rosters are operating in about 200.

The management, however, is facing the threat of industrial action from the NUR over its decision to cut 5,000 jobs in railway workshops with the probable shutdown of the works at Horwich, Greater Manchester, and Shildon, Co Durham. NUR and engineering union officials are to meet the management for further talks on the cutbacks.

The Aslef executive may avoid deciding on the McCarthy report tomorrow and instead leave the issue to the union's annual policy conference, which begins in London next week.

The NUR's footplate members are spread through various of the 300 depots. Pockets of NUR members tend to be concentrated in the Midlands.

Left-wing victories in Civil Service union

From David Felton, Labour Reporter, Brighton

Left-wingers gained substantial victories yesterday in the country's biggest Civil Service union. The decisions are likely to lead the union into regular confrontations with the Government.

Delegates at the annual conference of the Civil and Public Services Association in Brighton voted overwhelmingly for a resolution stating that next year's pay claim should be drawn up by a special conference, which would also plan a campaign strategy.

The special conference, which was agreed on against the advice of the union leadership, will be held at the end of the year and is certain to be dominated by the union's hard left organization, a coalition of communists, Militant Tendency supporters, and far left groups.

Delegates yesterday criticized the union executive for not being prepared to throw its weight behind calls for a full strike during last year's five months of selective strikes by civil servants.

The executive was censured in one motion, agreed

by a big majority, and another vote of censure of the executive, over this year's pay settlement, was carried by a big majority.

Under that settlement, agreed last week after arbitration, civil servants will receive average pay increases of 5.9 per cent. The union leadership was censured for not consulting the members on the arbitration award.

Another left-wing motion committed the union to investigate ways of resurrecting the local coordinating committees, representing all nine Civil Service unions, which organized the strikes last year's dispute.

Left-wingers packed the committees and believe that they provided a new power base separate from the central union leadership.

Mr Kenneth Thomas, the union's retiring general secretary, warned the conference that the proposal could not be implemented because it would not be supported by the other unions. He also strongly defended last year's strategy of selective strikes, which he said had cost the Government £1,000m.

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Two are stabbed to death

From Our Correspondent Guildford

A woman and a girl were found stabbed to death on a track leading to an Army firing range yesterday. It is believed they were walking their dog when they were attacked just off the A325 at East End, near Aldershot.

A passer-by discovered the bodies, which were being guarded by the dog.

Police sealed off the area and a Home Office pathologist carried out a preliminary post mortem examination on the spot. Police with dogs started a search and a house-to-house inquiries were made of an estate nearby.

Army officers also joined detectives. The wooded track where the bodies were found is on land behind the Army's court martial centre and only a short distance from the depot of Queen Alexandra's Royal Nursing Corps.

British Rail asset sale criticized

British Rail was accused yesterday of disposing of assets at "bargain basement" prices. Mr James Mills, the new president of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA), cited as examples the sale of British Transport laundries, the wine division of British Transport hotels, the Old Coach Hotel at St Andrew's, Effe, and prime property sites.

Mr Mills told his union's annual conference in Bourne-mouth that the sale emphasized "the desperation of the board endeavouring to obtain money which elsewhere in the western world would be available for the proper maintenance and renewal of the railway system."

He criticized British Rail's plans to close workshops at Shildon, Co Durham, and Horwich, near Bolton, Lancashire, and to reduce staff at the workshops in Swindon by 5,000.

"To propose to close railway workshops when so much of our motive power, passenger and freight stock, is in need of renewal indicates the full horror of BR's finances and the desperate measures which the Board is being forced into by the Government's malevolent attitude to BR," he said.

The intention to dispose of the Sealink Shipping service, followed "no doubt" by the sale of ports and harbours owned by BR, could do nothing but demoralize TSSA members employed there.

Postman jailed

A postman who got into debt and stole nearly £15,000 from registered letters, was jailed for three years yesterday, Michael Davies, aged 31, of Frankley, Birmingham, slit open more than a hundred mailbags while working at Birmingham's New Street station, a jury at Birmingham Crown Court was told.



Flying high: A group of unemployed teenagers who yesterday started a year-long project to build a light aircraft as part of the Government Youth Opportunities Programme. The plane, similar to the one above at Sunderland, will become a flying example of what YOP trainees can do, given an interesting scheme and encouragement. The Manpower Services Commission has allocated £54,226 for the project.

EEC coal cuts plan attacked

By Paul Routledge Labour Editor

South Wales miners, who fear a new round of "uneconomic" coal production dictated by the European Economic Community, said yesterday that they would fight the Brussels policy makers as they fought the British Government last year.

Mr Emyrn Williams, area president of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), disclosed to a coal-field delegate conference the contents of an EEC policy paper that suggested phasing out of 40 million tonnes of "unprofitable" output.

The commission's advice to the European Energy Council of Ministers says that 15 per cent of EEC coal production costs more than 100 per cent of the world market. The future of those pits ought to be reviewed. The National Coal Board is opposing the strategy.

Welsh miners believe that the intention of the EEC initiative is to rely to a greater extent on cheaper coal from Australia and Third World countries in South America and Asia.

"We must show the EEC that we have learnt our lesson," Mr Williams said. "Our reserves of precious coal, our mines and our labour force must not be wasted in order that British Steel and the CEBG and private industry be allowed to make a fair buck."

"Those reserves and assets must be defended, not just for this generation but for generations to come. We warn the administrators of the EEC as we warned the Thatcher Administration last year, that we have had enough double-talk, false promises and lies."

Miners wanted a planned energy policy that would use Welsh coal in the most profitable way. "That means investment in new developments, new mines and new recruits, not investment in worn-out, free-market ideologies. They failed once and they will fail again," Mr Williams insisted.

The EEC proposal, which is still only advice from the commission, argues that the slowing down of economic growth in Europe has forced Brussels energy experts to revise downwards their estimates for coal consumption up to the year 2000.

However, the document favours more intensive use of coal in industrial boilers and says that could be achieved without causing significant environmental difficulties.

● Calls for industrial action by Yorkshire miners against the Government's trade union reform Bill were set aside by delegates at a Yorkshire area council meeting yesterday in favour of contributing to concerted action by all grade unions (Donald Kershaw writes).

Mr Jack Taylor, area president, said the union had given a commitment to the TUC and the battle against the Bill was one for the wider movement.

Branch officials and committee members are to be urged to attend a rally against the Bill at Sheffield on Sunday.

Prior backs down on security talks

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent, Westminster

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, gave a clear signal in the Commons yesterday that the Government is prepared to concede that the province's proposed assembly should be allowed to debate matters of security and law and order.

As the second reading debate on the Northern Ireland Bill opened, it was soon evident that the forces on both sides of the House lining up against the measure have the oratorical, if not the numerical, power to endanger its passage unless there are concessions.

As recently as last month Mr Prior was firmly ruling out the possibility of debates by the assembly on security. Clause three of the Bill makes clear that the assembly does not have the power to consider "Excepted matters" such as security, unless the issue is specifically referred to it by the Secretary of State.

But with the Rev. Ian Paisley, Democratic Unionist MP for Antrim, North, leading the call for Mr Prior to think again on this matter, the Secretary of State was in a conciliatory mood yesterday as he opened the debate on the legislation which could restore devolved government in Ulster.

He said the Government had always recognized that the question of law and order was a matter of great concern to the people of Northern Ireland and to their elected representatives. The arguments put forward had highlighted the concern over law and order issues.

He went on to suggest that the House should look at the provisions in Clause three of the Bill's committee stage. That is as clear an indication as a minister will give at this stage of a Bill that he is prepared to make concessions.

Mr Prior, however, is not expected to move far enough to allow security to be one of

the matters capable of being devolved to the assembly. What he appeared to be saying was that the assembly might be given the powers to debate these issues.

He was not far into his speech before it must have been evident to him that he has some formidable opponents not only facing him but also behind him.

Those two alone could well form an alliance capable of killing almost any legislation. But they were not alone. Within minutes Mr Prior was under attack also by Sir John Biggs-Davison, Conservative MP for Epping Forest, and Mr Julian Amery, Conservative MP for Brighton, Pavilion.

Sir John, moving an amendment declining to give the Bill a second reading, said the legislation lacked broad support in Northern Ireland, did nothing to defeat terrorism or revive the economy of the province and contained provisions that would undermine the unity of the United Kingdom.

But Mr Prior said the policy of continuing with direct rule did not offer a long-term answer. To postpone this legislation now would be, for all practical purposes, to kill off these proposals. The assembly, he said, was necessary preliminary to political stability.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for West Lothian, was soon in full cry after Mr Prior. Mr Enoch Powell, Official Unionist MP for Down, South, also gave early warning of trouble ahead.

● Mr Peter Lloyd, Tory MP for Farnham, has left his post as private secretary to Mr Adam Ewart, Minister of Office, because of his opposition to the Northern Ireland Bill (the Press Association reports).

Mr Lloyd said yesterday: I fear that an assembly set up on the lines proposed would lead to further uncertainty and instability.

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Science report

DDT has no sting for Brazilian bees

By the Staff of "Nature"

A species of bee has not only learnt to live with the DDT that is used to control malaria in a remote part of Brazil but is attracted to and collects the insecticide. The bees come to no harm but probably gain no benefit from their bizarre behaviour.

The partiality of males of *Eufriesea purpurata* to DDT came to the attention of Dr Donald Roberts, then of the University of Brazil in Brasilia, and his colleagues there and at the United States Army Environmental Hygiene Agency in 1978 while they were studying the ecology of the mosquito that carries the malarial micro-organism to humans.

Five bees collected along the Ituxi river, which starts near the border with Bolivia in north-west Brazil, contained very high concentrations of DDT, particularly in the region of the pouches, where the hind legs in which pollen is collected.

A year later the scientists demonstrated that wooden boards sprayed with DDT attracted male bees and that large numbers of the bees visited the interior walls of the local residents' houses to collect the DDT that accumulated there from anti-malaria spraying operations.

More recently, Dr Roberts and his colleagues have captured, marked and recaptured bees collecting DDT to show that they survived the insecticide to return to their collecting grounds. Furthermore, if held in captivity, they lived as long as bees that had not been exposed to DDT.

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Deptford fire families given leave to appeal

The parents of 13 black young people who died in a fire at Deptford, South-east London, in January last year were yesterday given leave by the High Court to apply for court orders quashing the "open" inquest verdict on the deaths and requiring a new inquest to be held.

Mr Justice Comyn said: "I regard this matter as being so important and serious as to warrant a hearing by three judges in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court are dealt with by one or two judges, but important legal issues can be referred to a bench of three."

Mr Justice Comyn added: "At an earlier stage today I thought it right to ask Mr Ian Macdonald (counsel for the parents and the widow of a victim) whether in the circumstances of this very tragic matter his clients would wish to pursue their application, re-opening old wounds."

Mr Macdonald replied without hesitation that the 12 parents and one widow felt so deeply that they wanted to go on. That answer, so far as I am concerned, is conclusive and is in no way to be held against them."

Dr Arthur Davies, the Inner South London Coroner who presided over the inquest in May last year, was in court yesterday but did not oppose the application for leave to challenge the verdict.

The application was based on the argument that Dr Davies took no notes during the hearing and was therefore unable to give a proper summation to the jury.

During yesterday's hearing protesters demonstrated outside the Law Courts chanting "Police cover-up" and "We know it's a bomb" — referring to what they believe caused the fire at a house in New Cross Road, Deptford, while a birthday party was in progress.

Almost a year ago to the day Mr Justice Comyn heard an application by the parents to quash the inquest while it was being held. Then he refused, saying the move had been made too late and it would not be right to prevent the jury from giving a verdict.

Yesterday he directed that he should be excluded from the bench at the full court hearing, which he indicated would take place in about a month's time.

He said it was an unusual order to make, but he thought it would be "generally embarrassing" if he were to adjudicate, because he had become so involved in the preliminary hearings.

The judge also ordered all tape recordings, transcripts and "any or all" handwritten notes made by the coroner to be made available for the pending court hearing.

Alliance split on incomes policy

By Anthony Bevis Political Correspondent

The Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance campaign for the Beconsfield by-election was launched yesterday with an immediate and highly embarrassing conflict between Alliance partners over the form of a future incomes policy.

Mr Paul Tyler, the Alliance prospective candidate and former Liberal MP for Bodmin, announced at his first press conference that the joint policy commission on employment and industrial recovery, of which he is secretary, had agreed on an incomes policy which was bound to be statutory and based on an inflation tax.

Such a tax would be used as a penalty, levelled against employers and possibly employees as a deterrent against excessive pay increases.

But that announcement brought an immediate objection from a senior Social Democratic Party source at Westminster. An SDP member of the joint commission commented: "We have not agreed any form of incomes policy." Another SDP source said that Mr Tyler had been most foolish to make such a gaffe so early in his campaign.

The Social Democrats appear determined to keep their incomes policy option as possible, for as long as possible.

An SDP policy document on the economy, which has yet to be finalized by the party's policy committee, chaired by Mr Roy Jenkins, puts forward three options for an incomes policy: the inflation tax; a reversion to a board with a national pay norm; and a public sector pay policy, which would imply voluntary restraint for the private sector, working on a comparability basis.

Mr Tyler said yesterday that the joint commission report would be a formidable document, which would closely define the application of an inflation tax.

He also said that the statutory policy might well include "gateway" through genuine productivity deals would be allowed to pass.

The importance of a joint policy, one of a number to be agreed by the two parties before the next general election, was emphasized by Mr Tyler's view of the by-election campaign. "It is bound to be overshadowed by whatever is happening in the South Atlantic," he said. "But we feel very strongly and I will be campaigning to make sure that this is not just simply a ghastly election, because long after the Falklands has been solved, and let us hope that it is solved quite soon, there are going to be other long-term problems that this country is going to be facing."

Unemployment, he said, had more than trebled since the last election.

The by-election was caused by the death of Sir Ronald Bell, who held the seat for 32 years.

In the 1979 general election the result was: R. M. Bell (SDP) 57,238; E. L. Gibson (Lab.) 10,422; P. Mowat (C.) 5,852; J. Haynes (Ind. Trade) 246. Con. majority, 21,456.



Nerves of Steel

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, safely back on the ground at Knebworth House, near Stevenage, Hertfordshire, yesterday after parascending at 500ft.

"String along with the Liberals and go up in the world", he called down to photographers during his two-minute flight to publicize a Liberal-SDP "Fun Day", which will be held at Knebworth House next month to raise cash for the Hospital for Sick Children, in Great Ormond Street, London.

Knebworth is the base for a parascending club, the Paramaniacs, and their leading woman member, Joanne Green, aged 30 gave Mr Steel 15 minutes' ground training.

He was then towed aloft by Land-Rover, and after making a perfect landing said: "It was exhilarating but I was terrified." A club member added: "He is very fit and was in total control."

NFU attack on stubble burning

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The National Farmers' Union launched a campaign yesterday to prevent careless and irresponsible straw and stubble burning, which it described as one of the most contentious issues in agriculture.

"I make no secret of our concern about the bad public reaction to straw burning," Sir Richard Butler, the union's president, said. "It is understandable, particularly in view of the accidents of various kinds which happened last year."

It was clear that too many farmers had failed to follow the union's code, he added. With the advice of organizations including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Countryside Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council, the union had put the maximum effort into ensuring that all farmers got sound, practical advice to help them to burn straw safely.

A film produced as part of the campaign makes the point that about five million tonnes more straw than needed is produced each year and that the burning of it has become an essential practice on most cereal-growing farms.

Although sometimes flip-pantly referred to as "using the matchbox bailer", burning demands careful planning and expert control.

Union officials made clear their concern yesterday that unless farmers put their house in order, some resolutions to be submitted to the national conference in Skegness today of the agricultural and skilled workers' trade group of the Transport and General Workers' Union call for straw burning to be made illegal.

One of the resolutions, moved by the group's Louth district committee, says that farmers will not follow the code.

Answering criticisms from conservationists yesterday that the code was not strong enough, NFU officials replied that they had asked for the maximum fine to be increased from £500 to £1,000.

Last week Lord Elton, Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, told the Lords that the maximum of £500 should be seen in the context of the fact that £1,000 was, generally speaking, the most that magistrates' courts could exact for any offence.

Full use of Kielder water 'not till 2000'

From Our Correspondent Newcastle upon Tyne

Water from a £167m reservoir scheme to be opened this month by the Queen is unlikely to be fully used until after the year 2000.

Since Kielder Water, in Northumberland, was planned to increase supplies available for industry, demand in the Northumbrian Water Authority area has declined by 5 per cent.

Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, chairman of the authority, said yesterday that he and his planners did not find it embarrassing that the critics who had argued that the scheme was unnecessary had apparently been proved right.

The creation of one of the largest manmade lakes in western Europe by flooding seven miles of the Upper North Tyne Valley, Sir Ralph said, had "assured water supplies for the North-east well into the next century."

He said: "We can confidently say to industrialists that we can meet their water requirements however great they may be."

He agreed, however, that "with the current poor economic forecast for industry, we are not expecting the water from Kielder to be fully utilized probably until the first two decades of the next century."

He described the big reduction in water demands by British steel and ICI, the authority's two largest customers, as a "hiccup".

Mr David Cranston, the authority's finance director, disclosed that a million domestic water users in the North-east would pay £5 a household annually towards the cost of Kielder and would continue to do so "more or less permanently".

Through a complex of pumping stations and tunnels water from the reservoir, which lies close to the Scottish border, can easily be channelled to the rivers Tyne, Wear and Tees.

Animal exporter cleared

From Our Correspondent, Northampton

One of Britain's biggest animal exporters was cleared of a conspiracy charge yesterday and a judge ordered that his costs, estimated at £100,000 should be paid out of public funds.

Mr Douglas Clay, aged 57, denied conspiring to defraud veterinary inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture, and Lord Hooson, QC, his counsel, asked for him to be cleared at the end of the prosecution case.

Judge Francis Allen directed the jury at Northampton Crown Court to return a formal verdict of not guilty against Mr Clay, of Eylehurst Farm, Eylehurst, Surrey, and also agreed that his costs should be paid.

Mr Clay would not comment, but Lord Hooson said later that he estimated the costs would be about £100,000. The application had been opposed by Mr Philip Cox, QC, for the prosecution.

Mr Cox had alleged that thousands of sheep and cattle were unlawfully shipped to Europe because health certificates had been altered and forged.

The trial of Mr Richard Orlebar, aged 42, a former restaurant owner, of Hinwick House, Hinwick, Bedfordshire, who also denies conspiracy, is continuing.

TV hypnotist stole from dying mother, QC says

From Our Correspondent, York

Ronald Markham, a stage and television hypnotist under the name Remark, tricked his elderly mother out of her fortune as she lay dying in hospital, Mr Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, for the prosecution said yesterday at York Crown Court.

Mr Markham, he said, had regularly visited his widowed mother's home in Newcastle upon Tyne to carry off antiques, silver and jewelry. He had planned to emigrate with his wife after their raids on the £250,000 collection of valuables belonging to Mrs Emma Goldman, aged 79.

Mr Rivlin said that Mr Markham, aged 55, thought his mother was too ill to leave hospital. She was taken to hospital in November, 1980, after a stroke and was often vague and confused. She died this year.

Mr Markham set about plundering her fortune, Mr Rivlin said, adding that he also forged documents to obtain money from her many bank and building society accounts.

Counsel said that it was regrettable that Mr Markham's sons would be giving evidence against him. "But this consideration pales into insignificance if you balance it against the pain and distress inflicted on Mrs Goldman by the theft and trickery of the defendant while this helpless old lady was in hospital. This is the essential callousness of these offences."

The police had discovered thousands of pounds of Mr Markham's mother's antiques hidden in the garage of his home.

Mr Rivlin added that Mr Markham had stolen his mother's will, which had never been found.

Mr Markham denies 14 charges of theft and fraud involving more than £50,000 and his wife denies theft and demanding money on a forged instrument.

The hearing continues.

Newspaper is fined for Swale case contempt

News Group Newspapers, publishers of the *News of the World*, were fined £500 in the High Court yesterday for contempt of court in publishing an article about Miss Rosie Swale, the yachtswoman, and Miss Tracey Stamp, her friend.

The newspaper had ignored a judge's warning about what could be published at the end of a Crown Court trial involving the two women, Lord Justice Donaldson, presiding in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, said.

The press had been told to be very careful because of the possibility of a retrial after the jury had failed to agree on a verdict on a charge against Miss Stamp of unlawfully administering poison. Miss Swale had been convicted of a similar offence.

Lord Donaldson described the contempt, which News Group admitted, as "at the lower end of the scale, a comparatively minor error of judgment."

He added: "The most outstanding feature of this case is the fact that the *News of the World* has been published for many years and for the past 40 years there has been no such offence."

"It is fair to point out that the paper operates in a field which concentrates on crime and similar stories, where they are more at risk of making an inadvertent error than other types of newspapers."

Mr Simon Brown, for the Attorney General, who brought the contempt proceedings, said the article, published on March 1 last year, had accused the women of waging a "vicious vendetta" against a couple and their family who had befriended them. He told the judge that there were overtones of evil and violence in the article, which blackened the character of Miss Stamp.

Lord Justice Donaldson, sitting with Mr Justice Webster, said the article had been liable to prejudice the fair hearing of Miss Stamp's retrial, "although, happily, she was in the event acquitted and whatever prejudice there was, it was not sufficient to affect the outcome."

He said an agency had supplied a report of the trial to the newspaper and had failed to point out the judge's warning. "In the circumstances I think a wholly nominal fine would be appropriate."

News Group were ordered to pay the costs of the hearing.

Cemeteries strike may end

The strike that has prevented public burials at four corporation cemeteries in Liverpool is expected to be called off today. Officials of the General and Municipal Workers Union will recommend 140 gravediggers and gardeners at a mass meeting to agree to arbitration and end the week-long strike.

Union officers met leaders of the city council yesterday. Sir Trevor Jones, the city council leader, has agreed to suspend a decision to cut £50,000 from the cemeteries budget.

Workers had protested that the cut would lead to a loss of overtime work and the virtual closing of cemeteries at the weekends.

Policemen's jail sentences cut

Sergeant Graham MacPhee, aged 33, of Westerham Road, Otford, Surrey, gave Constable Neil Pond, aged 39, of Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, who were jailed at the Central Criminal Court for fabricating a "sus" offence against two youths, obtained cuts in their sentences at the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

MacPhee had his five-year sentence for attempting to pervert the course of justice cut to three years and Pond's sentence was reduced from four years to 21 months.

Tory choice

Mr Robert Key, aged 36, a master at Harrow School, has been adopted as proxy parliamentary Conservative candidate for Salisbury. Mr Michael Hamilton, the present Conservative MP, said in November that he would retire at the next election.

Disease alert

A suspected outbreak of swine vesicular disease led to the closure of Bridge cattle market in Shropshire yesterday. Ministry of Agriculture spokesmen said thousands of animals would have to be kept at the market overnight while tests were completed.

Two-way TV trial begins

By Kenneth Gosling

Two-way television, the subject of a Granada Television experiment that began last weekend, could have a promising future in Britain once a national cable system is in existence.

It was described in London yesterday by Mr Rod Caird, Granada's head of regional programmes, as "the first toe in the water" towards a future when many people in their homes will be able to respond directly to television programmes.

The Granada experiment involves the installation of special equipment in 65 homes in the North-west and continues for 12 weeks. The period may be extended after a study of the results.

Mr Caird said it was not yet possible technically to conduct the kind of work being done at Columbus, Ohio, where thousands of people could now talk direct to their television sets; but a question could be asked of a panel of 60 people, with the results being screened within two minutes and 15 seconds.

Granada began its forerunner of what may be in store in the cable age on Friday, asking its viewers questions about the Falklands crisis. But less serious topics may also be debated, such as judging a talent show or pressing a button to give an immediate reply to a question in a studio quiz.

Mr Donald Harker, Granada's director of public affairs, said the experiment, which is costing tens of thousands of pounds and is being carried out in cooperation with the AGB research organization, was "just the tip of the technological iceberg."

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manager sits back and listens in open-mouthed admiration, convinced first go. No. Our managers know that putting a case together for a loan, even though it's a sound one, is far from easy. So they're always ready to offer advice, to see if a proposition can be knocked into shape, and to search for reasons why they *can* lend rather than reasons why they *can't*.

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Westminster rule not long-term answer

ULSTER

The policy of continuing with direct rule for Northern Ireland would not provide the answer to the problems of the province, Mr. James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said when moving the second reading of his Northern Ireland Bill.

He recognized, he said, the sincerity of Conservative MPs who disagreed with this view and was sorry to see Mr. Michael Weston (Wolverhampton, South-East, C), for whom he had a high personal regard, had moved to the backbenches. It was not within the capacity of anyone to be certain the policies they were following were right. Many solutions had been canvassed, some had been tried and some regrettably failed.

I do not believe the said that the policy of continuing with direct rule offers a long term answer.

Either one moved to a position of total integration, which was the view of some of the MPs who had put down amendments to the second reading motion, or one sought a gradual devolution of power, which was the course the Government believed that should be followed.

What gave him much hope was that despite all the provocations of last year, when it came to the crunch the vast majority on both sides of the House demonstrated once again their rejection of violence. That gave confidence to the Government in its attempt to seek change now.

Full integration was unacceptable. It was not what any of the parties wanted or was committed to. They might not like the Government's proposals, but they would like full integration less. Full integration and local government structure would deny the reality of the situation, of the expressions their aspirations, or taking their share of responsibility.

Full integration was an irrevocable step which would lead to more alienation and instability. The vast majority wished to retain their connexion with the United Kingdom.

The most unacceptable criticism of the Bill was that the Government should not proceed because of the Falkland Islands crisis. Everyone agreed that political controversy was undesirable at a time when servicemen were at risk, but many of those who used this argument were those who said the Government should not proceed at all. To postpone now was to kill off all practical purposes to kill off all practical purposes to kill off all practical purposes.

Some of the armed forces now in the Falkland Islands had together with the RUC suffered 620 deaths since 1971. Northern Ireland had left the front pages of the suffering continued. The Government did not share the view that it should be put on the back burner but that it was as deserving of the attention of the House of Commons as it had ever been.

While introduction of an assembly would not immediately solve the economic or employment problems of the province, political stability would have a potential effect upon employment, which was an essential element of economic revival.

The assembly was a necessary preliminary to political stability. The Bill did not offer a better economy or better security, but through it one could proceed to further stages. It would take time.

The Bill provided clearly that devolution was not delivered until the agreement was reached: no blank cheque. The parties must demonstrate their cooperation to the satisfaction of the House before devolution was given.

Mr. Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, said during a question on the state of the negotiations.

Mr. Rees said that so far, the EEC Commission had held only informal exploratory consultations with the supplying countries. Formal negotiations were scheduled to commence this week in Brussels.

Mr. George Park (Coventry, North-East, Lab.) Since any increased access to our markets by the smaller supplying countries could only be done on the basis of cutbacks from the so-called dominant countries, how

commitment of the Government this year, when it receives the report of the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland, to proceed under statute to the provision of 17 seats for Northern Ireland irrespective of what happens to this Bill?

Mr. Prior: There has never been any doubt that we all accept that there are going to be 17 seats for Northern Ireland. It is at a much later date, after devolution has taken place, for the House to consider whether 17 seats would have been right or not. As things stand, the 17-seats issue is a non-issue as we shall proceed as we are at the moment.

The Bill sought to achieve its objectives as far as possible by using the constitutional framework established by the Northern Ireland (Constitutional) Act of 1973 and the Northern Ireland Act 1974.

Northern Ireland's position as a constituent part of the United Kingdom would remain as under section one of the Constitution Act. There could be no change in that status without the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland.

The Bill put responsibilities for making proposals for a devolved administration squarely on the assembly itself. Provision was made in order to enable legislative and executive power to be devolved on the assembly either by a complete transfer of powers or by developing responsibilities in more than one stage.

The assembly was to have a vitally important scrutinizing and monitoring functions pending devolution.

It was critically important that the new assembly would provide something that up to now had been lacking during direct rule. This was a local forum in which the views of the elected representatives could be expressed, formulated and presented to the Government and Parliament.

In the view of the political health of Northern Ireland, locally elected representatives should be engaged once again to make a contribution to the political dialogue and discussion and be able to influence policies more directly than at present. The Government would give the most careful consideration to recommendations of the assembly in regard to legislation and other matters.

The Government recognizes the continued how difficult it is going to be to achieve lasting improvements, that is why this Bill takes such modest and limited steps for a period of window dressing can hide the fact that peace and improved prosperity will only come to Northern Ireland if the various factions are prepared to make accommodations with one another.

At the moment they do not want to do this. To do nothing is, therefore, easier for them. They have all the advantage of political activity with none of the disadvantages of responsibility.

In the face of the suffering, the economic decline and the political stagnation the onus of proof lay as much upon those who said nothing as upon those who said something.

It is said the went on to say there is no support in Ulster. I do not believe it. The Government believes there is a real desire across the broad mass of the population for a break in the deadlock.

The Bill will begin that slow and difficult process and hope it will have the support and good will of the whole House. (Cheers.)

Mr. Don Concannon, Chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland (Manchester, Lab.), said the Opposition found the Government's analysis of the problems acceptable but the Bill did not properly cater for the political realities of Northern Ireland. They wished to see the Bill and the assembly get off to a good start.

Opposition would like to see the Secretary of State given

power to appoint a presiding officer who at the time of appointment might or might not be a member of the assembly. This would go a long way to ensure that a person acceptable to both sides of the community would hold this important position.

How far was the Government prepared to go with the reorganization of departments in Northern Ireland in order to accommodate devolution? Confusion would be rife if every department was to be split.

The Opposition doubted whether there would be agreement in the assembly as to how power should be exercised in the event of devolution. Labour would have laid down much lighter criteria for the inclusion of the minority at every level of executive power.

They understood that the reason for introducing the 70 per cent majority requirement was to ensure the devolution proposals had a demonstrable measure of cross-community support. The aim was a good one but he doubted whether the proposal in the Bill would fulfil that aim. He questioned the need for a fixed percentage.

The Opposition view was that it was unnecessary to set any figure. He could detect little support for the 70 per cent idea and that was not surprising because the group feared that another could veto its proposals.

It would be much more sensible to dispense with the fixed majority idea altogether, which had a majority of any order should be submitted to the Secretary of State and it should be for him alone to decide whether they had the necessary measure of cross-community support.

Everybody was suspicious of the 70 per cent. Nobody wanted it. The Secretary of State knew his job and would decide whether there was the right support. It would be for the House to support or reject it.

Clause 2, providing for an Order in Council to pass powers back to Northern Ireland, did not meet with Labour's approval. A single order in Council was not an adequate instrument. It would be wiser to transfer functions by orders on a departmental basis.

Every possible should be done to strengthen the union. The Bill and the White Paper damned the union with faint praise. Whether in the South Atlantic or Northern Ireland, the Bill was a blow to the union.

The Secretary of State had to be realistic. The Bill was a blow to the union. The Secretary of State had to be realistic. The Bill was a blow to the union.

Mr. John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest, C) moved an amendment declining to give the Bill a second reading. He said the Bill "lacked broad support in Northern Ireland, did nothing to achieve the desired peace and stability, and put back on the life support machine."

Only if there was a commitment to accept the type of Government of the democratic system could devolution work in Northern Ireland. The Unionists wanted to see something that was sensible and solvent. The only sensible course was the democratic course.

Mr. Peter Robinson (Belfast, East, Dem U) said that in spite of what the White Paper had said, direct rule had not worked. The second option of his party was not the second option of his party. It was not to the benefit of the people of Northern Ireland, was slow, evasive, unworkable, unrepresentative and bureaucratic.

The province was being destroyed, economically, by direct rule. The ideal solution for his party was not on the table so the only criterion for them in considering the Bill was whether it was an improvement on direct rule, and whether it had two distinct qualities: that it would not endanger Northern Ireland, and that it must be capable of leading on to their larger policy—what he would call real and meaningful devolution.

The Bill did not live up to Mr. Prior's salesmanship in the early stages. The qualifications on the assembly's right to consider anything meant that it could not do so. The Bill did not live up to Mr. Prior's salesmanship in the early stages.

His party would submit an amendment to change the 70 per cent requirement for proposals from the assembly coming to the Commons to a simple majority.

Mr. Brian Mawhinney (Peterborough, C) said he welcomed the Bill and would support it. It recognized the genuine wish of the majority of the people in Northern Ireland to have a devolved assembly. This was the only way in which the division in the community could be bridged.

As regards the possibility of failure it would be a little bit premature for us to devise an alternative regime on textile. It would be unattractive for the whole world if the European Community could not remain a coherent signatory to the MFA. It is wrong to speculate at this moment what would be the consequences of failure.

Mr. Bowen Wells (Hertford and Stevenage, C) It is essential for the general peace of this country and for the benefit of its consumers that low income countries are able to trade with this country in low price textiles.

Mr. Rees: We are conscious of the delicate balance we are struck in these negotiations between the interests of the textile industry, which is important, the interests of the developing nations.



Prior: Seeking stability

ommendations to the assembly, supplementing the work of ministers under direct rule, and making recommendations to the executive under devolution.

In the absence of any devolution, elected representatives should talk about matters of common concern with the Irish Republic. Such a provision should be made in the Bill.

The Opposition was wary of creeping socialism. It wanted to strengthen the Bill to get the maximum measure of cross-community support to devolution.

The House was divided on the Conservative amendment. Labour would not support such an attempt to wreck the Bill. He would vote against the amendment.

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Concannon: Correct analysis

country on both sides of the sea. This was a time for ministers to seek unity on both sides.

Mr. William Ross (Londonderry, Off U) said the reason for the continuing turmoil revolved not around the question of the return of power into the hands of people in Northern Ireland, but who wielded that power when it was returned, and to what purpose.

The second part of the Bill was a dog's breakfast in the devolving of power. His party would submit an amendment to change the 70 per cent requirement for proposals from the assembly coming to the Commons to a simple majority.

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Trade sanctions are damaging economy of Argentine

FALKLANDS

While the efficacy of sanctions could never be precisely measured it was already clear that the measures adopted by the British Government and others had put considerable pressure on the Argentine economy and undermined international confidence in it, Mr. Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, said at a question time in the House of Commons.

Mr. Dennis Canavan (West Sutherland, Lab) asked: Will he order an inquiry into how a merchant bank, Schuler Wagg, secured the long-term Argentine loan book from London to Zurich the very day before the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands?

As a complete economic boycott would be far more effective than any military action, why is the Government failing to bring pressure to bear on unpatriotic, greedy British bankers who are using their overseas subsidiaries to prop up the Argentine junta?

This Tory Government prefers sending young men to their deaths rather than offend its friends in the City.

Mr. Rees: He speaks from a position of invincible prejudice. Conservative prejudice. Mr. Timothy Eggar (Enfield, North, C) Does he have an assessment of the value of trade sanctions in Argentina since the Soviet Union and the Argentine since the commencement of hostilities?

Mr. Rees: No. We would welcome any information that he can give on that point.

An undertaking to make every effort to bring secure relations once again was put on a normal and satisfactory footing was given by Mr. Rees during other exchanges.

David Glimberg (Dewsbury, SDP) had asked what the Department of Trade was doing to ensure the long-term security of Anglo-Argentine trade must

division will be said off until the three individual divisions are all profitable.

Mr. Sproat: I thought I was going to be able to say that it was not the present intention of Sir John King to sell off any of these divisions piecemeal but it is not dependent on them becoming profitable or not doing so. Privatisation will go ahead as fast as possible, in overall profit.

Mr. William Walker (Perth and East Perth, Lab.) British Airways is unlikely to make a profit if it is plagued by idiotic strikes like that of the baggage handlers and by flying empty aircraft back to Belfast to Glasgow every evening. Will it take the example of the Scottish Division? That is the way to make a profit.

Mr. Sproat: Yes. In Scotland a predicted 16m deficit was turned into a predicted 21.5m profit. I hope BA will benefit from that.

Mr. John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on the subject, said there were reports that the Government might write off £600m, indebtedness to facilitate the floating of shares on the private market. Will he confirm that?

Mr. Sproat: The Government will tolerate no such thing, which would be a gross wrong to the British taxpayer.

Mr. Sproat: Mr. Smith is always inviting me to comment on press reports or hypotheses. It is a pointless hypothesis. He should wait and see. I cannot come soon enough for me and I hope the same for Mr. Smith.

Mr. William van Straubenzee (Wokingham, C) asked whether it was still the intention of the Government to sell shares in British Airways.

Mr. Sproat: Yes. It is always inviting me to comment on press reports or hypotheses. It is a pointless hypothesis. He should wait and see. I cannot come soon enough for me and I hope the same for Mr. Smith.

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await the settlement of the present conflict.

Mr. Glimberg: Major British trade and investment interests are at stake. Could we have an assurance that when the diplomatic and military aspects of the problem have been settled, steps will be taken to safeguard our commercial interests which may well be at risk then?

Mr. Rees: Neither I nor any other Government spokesman has concealed that the present conflict cannot be endless. I intend to take every opportunity to help secure a resumption of trade once relations are put on a normal and satisfactory footing but I have to emphasise that the solution of the present unhappy conflict is prevented by the intransigence of the Argentine Government and not by the British Government.

Mr. Rees: It is not necessary for me to comment on the sartorial position of the EEC. (Laughter.) Mr. Marlow, perhaps, overmuch concern. It was not intended that any discussion should be taken on extending sanctions. The Government hope and expects that the EEC's common position on sanctions will be extended beyond that.

He is right to point out that the United Kingdom market is important to the continental European members of the EEC, as their market is important to our exporters.

Sir Anthony Meyer (West Flint, C) Mr. Marlow might reflect on the fact that this country requires markets for her exports.

Mr. Rees: It is right to draw attention to the perils of protectionism, particularly if it were applied to Britain and our EEC countries. It is our fastest growing market.

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This would be wrong. The EEC countries were supporting Britain because her stand was correct in international law.

He sought an undertaking from the Government that there would be no linking of any kind as the basis of Community support.

Mr. Rees: Mr. Smith cannot have heard the contribution of the French Foreign Minister (M. Cheysson) on the World at One today when he demonstrated clearly that France sought no such linkage and gave us unstinted support in our defence of an important principle in the South Atlantic.

Earlier, Mr. Anthony Marlow (Northampton, North, C) had said: As our Community partners, instead of giving us wholehearted support over our Falklands problem, have decided to put us on probation, will he remind them that if they continue to wet their knickers at the first whiff of unvalidated Argentine propaganda, a lot of this trade benefit from our EEC membership will be put at risk.

Mr. Rees: It is not necessary for me to comment on the sartorial position of the EEC. (Laughter.) Mr. Marlow, perhaps, overmuch concern. It was not intended that any discussion should be taken on extending sanctions. The Government hope and expects that the EEC's common position on sanctions will be extended beyond that.

He is right to point out that the United Kingdom market is important to the continental European members of the EEC, as their market is important to our exporters.

Sir Anthony Meyer (West Flint, C) Mr. Marlow might reflect on the fact that this country requires markets for her exports.

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Formal textiles negotiations begin this week

TRADE

A delicate balance must be struck in the negotiations for the renewal of the multi-fibre arrangement between the textile industry, the consumers and the interests of developing nations.

Mr. Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, said during a question on the state of the negotiations.

Mr. Rees said that so far, the EEC Commission had held only informal exploratory consultations with the supplying countries. Formal negotiations were scheduled to commence this week in Brussels.

Mr. George Park (Coventry, North-East, Lab.) Since any increased access to our markets by the smaller supplying countries could only be done on the basis of cutbacks from the so-called dominant countries, how

does he justify starting negotiations with the dominant countries before he has successfully concluded the situation with them to enable him to make concessions to the smaller countries?

Mr. Rees: The EEC Commission has been given a strict mandate to negotiate bilateral agreements with the dominant countries and with the Mediterranean countries that are outside it. We expect cutbacks of 10 per cent from the dominant countries, compensated maybe in certain cases by outward processing and it is possible for the Commission to negotiate satisfactory bilateral arrangements.

Mr. Tom McNally (Stockport, South, SDP) Some of our partners have been rather wily in negotiating textile arrangements. Do we have a veto on these negotiations and will he use that if it is not satisfactory to British textile interests?

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Sign of shift by Argentina over sovereignty

Haig sees some 'positive elements'

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington, May 10

The Reagan Administration believes that statements emanating from Buenos Aires during the past 24 hours may represent a slight shift by the Argentine Government on the issue of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

The United States is awaiting clarification of remarks made yesterday by Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the Foreign Minister, and a statement by a government spokesman today that Argentina had dropped the issue of sovereignty as a precondition for withdrawing its forces from the islands. Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said today that there were "some positive elements" in the latest Argentine announcement.

The British, however, remain deeply sceptical of Argentine intentions, believing that any shift by Buenos Aires has been in rhetoric rather than substance. "They are saying the same thing about sovereignty, but in a different way," a British diplomat said.

The British contend that Argentina has shown no flexibility since it invaded the islands on April 2 and that it is now trying to retain its "spoils of war" by prolonging negotiations endlessly.

Although not wishing to spell out what these adjustments are, Britain is known to have shown flexibility by dropping its earlier opposition to United Nations involvement, by accepting the concept of a phased withdrawal of Argentine forces, by abandoning its initial insistence of a restoration of exclusively British administration, and watering down the role which Britain says the 1,800 islanders must play in determining their own future.

The flexibility being shown by Mrs. Margaret Thatcher's government is designed on part to ensure the continued support of the United States and the EEC.

Although the United States continues to be active in behind-the-scenes diplomacy, officials concede that the only peace initiative now in play is the one undertaken by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General. Mr. Haig said the United States wholeheartedly supported the Secretary-General's peace efforts.

Wills made verbally are valid

By Frances Gibb

Servicemen on active duty have the right to make a privileged will without observing any of the formalities required by law, according to an article in the Law Society's Gazette this week. But they should be warned that such wills, even uttered verbally in battle, still hold good afterwards, it says.

Mr. P. R. Bagwell Purfoy, the author, who is a solicitor in Tunbridge Wells, says: "All those who experience privileged circumstances should be warned of the lasting effect of privileged wills as a should be advised to review their affairs when the dust has settled and to restore the position with a fresh, formal will."

After two world wars, many smaller engagements and a long period of national service there must be many such wills not in existence which may or may not represent the intentions of their authors today, Mr. Purfoy notes.

There must also be a certain potential for fraud because of the low standards of proof required for the existence of a privileged oral will.

"It is quite possible that the testator, having survived the time of danger, may forget what he has done or it may not occur to him that he has done anything permanent at all."

But the article defends the right of members of the forces in military service and of mariners or seamen at sea to dispose of their estates without formality. "That privilege has existed for hundreds of years, and it is not for us to cut it down, however much we may be disposed towards tidiness and certainty in our legislation."

Advice on wills is issued to servicemen in a Ministry of Defence Form 106; it is a successor to the one that was contained in the now obsolete Soldiers' Pay Book, and is freely available to all ranks.

From Christopher Thomas
Buenos Aires, May 10

There were growing indications in Buenos Aires tonight that Argentina might be prepared to accept a brief transitional period in which a joint government would administer the Falklands before the islands were handed over to complete Argentine rule.

This apparent slight shift in the junta's position is not regarded as especially significant because its essential claim to have its sovereignty recognized as a precondition to any settlement remains intact.

Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the Foreign Minister, has succeeded in the past few days in confusing Argentina's exact position on sovereignty in a series of conflicting and self-contradictory statements.

It seems he is anxious to be seen willing to negotiate and to be flexible while, in fact, not budging from the central demand on sovereignty. Foreign Ministry sources confirmed today that there was absolutely no change in that position.

But an official did say that a brief transitional arrangement might be acceptable, perhaps lasting three years or even five, but certainly anything in the long term, like the Hongkong arrangement, was out of the question.

He thought it might be possible for a palatable form of words to be found in which Britain would, in effect, acknowledge Argentina's claim to the islands.

Señor Costa Méndez was quoted in one interview as saying that Argentina was not making the acceptance of

Fallen Briton buried under a foreign flag

From Our Own Correspondent, Buenos Aires, May 10

"If I should die think only this of me: that there's some corner of a foreign field that is forever England"—Rupert Brooke.

The bleak and savage lands of the Falklands may not be foreign, but there is an unknown corner where Lieutenant Nicholas Taylor, the Sea Harrier pilot shot down last Tuesday, today lies.

Last night, the Argentines who killed him showed on television how they honoured him in death and buried him with their own war dead.

There was nothing British about the ceremony. Forty Argentine soldiers stood rigidly at attention with rifles gripped diagonally across their chests, in the howling wind, as a priest muttered softly in Latin and shivered inside his anorak. The blue and white Argentine flag cracked in the wind.

For 30 minutes, Argentine television showed scenes of the Falklands. At one point two jets flashed by, their exhausts emitting a pull of red and white smoke, and they looked like Harriers. Suddenly there was an explosion.

The film, taken by a state television crew, switched to a crumpled, mangled and barely recognizable Harrier with an identification mark that looked like X243.

The burial was at Goose Green, where the Harrier was shot down. The Argentine announcer said it was brought down on Saturday, May 1, whereas Britain announced that the aircraft



Wreckage of a Harrier shot down in the Falklands—Argentine News Agency picture.

Argentine sovereignty a precondition of any negotiated settlement but added that "any negotiations must eventually lead to recognition of Argentine sovereignty."

After the interview, however, Señor Gustavo Figueroa, his chief adviser, insisted that negotiations had to be preceded by recognition of Argentine sovereignty.

It seems, therefore, that

Argentina's position remains almost exactly as it has been since the invasion of the islands on April 2.

The hurry of diplomatic activity at the United Nations seems to be at least partly concerned with Argentina's apparent willingness to consider a transitional arrangement. That apparent shift of ground may, however, be nothing more than a negotia-

ting tactic since up to now any attempt to be flexible has immediately been quashed by the militant hardliners in the military Government.

The role of Señor Costa Méndez and Señor Enrique Ros, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs who is at the United Nations, must be regarded as little more than that of a messenger. It is clear that they do not have

power to negotiate and that they must act in the strict confines laid down by the military rulers.

The exact state of the Peruvian effort to find a solution is not clear. Two peace plans have been proposed by President Fernando Belaúnde Terry: one on May 1 and the other last week. The first plan has been publicly rejected but the status of the other is unclear.

Funeral at sea shows fraternity

From Peter Archer,
Press Association
Correspondent
on board HMS Hermes.

The awful results of modern missile warfare now stand clear in the minds of the men in Britain's task force. A burial at sea and a memorial service on Sunday on board the task force flagship, HMS Hermes, underlined the grim reality of the conflict.

The service—like one being held 8,000 miles away in Sheffield Cathedral—was for the 20 men who died when the destroyer was hit by an Argentine missile last week.

In the task force there was sadness before, when the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano was sunk by a British submarine. Crewmen took no pleasure in Argentine deaths—the fraternity of the sea strong, and can bridge differences, even at war, but there cannot be many who would not prefer peace by diplomacy.

On Sunday the body of a petty officer, recovered from the Sheffield, was committed to the sea. The destroyer's commanding officer, Captain James Salt and his officers attended the private service on Hermes's quarter deck.

A Union flag was draped over the traditional canvas shroud. In a message to the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Captain Salt said: "We wish to express our sincere appreciation for your thoughts. We remain very proud of our association with your city."

Four of Sheffield's men, who suffered burns in the missile attack are being treated on board Hermes. One man's condition is critical.

The task force is rediscovering the lessons of history—that war at sea is long periods of boredom chased by periods of frantic activity. Hour after hour, men at defence stations wait for an attack. Suddenly, the klaxon breaks the peace, and all the ship's company rushes to action stations.

Hearts beating faster, adrenalin surging in their veins, they prepare to repel the incoming threat. It could be a submarine, the Argentine fleet or, more likely, an air raid.

Belgrano sinking Chile embraced for its rescue effort

From Florencia Varas, Santiago, May 10

Relations between Argentina and Chile improved sharply last week as a result of Chilean help in the rescue efforts following the sinking of the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano.

The arrival in Santiago of a special representative of the Argentine navy bearing a message of thanks from President Galtieri coincided with statements of the Chilean Ambassador in Buenos Aires, Señor Sergio Onofre Jarpa, that Argentina need not fear that Chile "would take advantage of the situation and act behind her back."

On the contrary, Señor Jarpa stated the Argentine people could rest assured that "their flank is protected by Chile's firm, loyal position."

The Argentine Foreign Ministry reacted favourably to Chilean assurances that Santiago would in no way intervene in favour of Britain.

The Times

In exchange for accreditation to the task force news organizations agreed with the Ministry of Defence that dispatches filed by "war" correspondents would be subject to excision of detail considered sensitive for operational reasons. This is carried out prior to transmission by an MoD press officer with the fleet. In addition, transmission is frequently heavily delayed pending release of official information in London—a practice now being reviewed at MoD. Upon receipt at MoD, the copy is again read by officials and occasionally further excision of figures and names has been suggested. The Times, like other British newspapers, has occasionally been requested by government officials not to publish certain items for reasons of operational security, but the decision to comply rests entirely with The Times.

It added that the Chilean Government had also clarified several specific misunderstandings arising out of the Anglo-Argentine dispute. According to Argentina, Santiago has denied that the

body of Señor Jiménez was found in his taxi near a road in the outskirts of Santiago. He was murdered after the weekend he had become the leading figure in attempts to unify Chile's trade union movement.

General Gustavo Leigh, a former member of the Chilean military junta and the former commander of the Chilean Air Force, will testify in court this week concerning what he knows about the murder of Señor Jiménez, a former Chilean opposition trade union leader who was assassinated last February.

The body of Señor Jiménez was found in his taxi near a road in the outskirts of Santiago. He was murdered after the weekend he had become the leading figure in attempts to unify Chile's trade union movement.

Because of the urgency P & O and the ministry agreed to the requisition of the ships first, before detailed discussions on payment began. Those talks now seem likely to be protracted, since it is difficult to forecast how much the vessels' future commercial earnings might be affected by requisition.

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By the end of last week the ministry had paid

Belgrano sinking

British destroyer Exeter ever entered Chilean waters or made use of Chilean ports. Similarly, the Chileans have let it be known that the oil tanker Tide Pool was never delivered to Chile, and that Chile has never supplied fuel to British ships involved in the conflict, and will not do so in the future.

According to the Chilean Ambassador, relations between the two countries have "entered a new stage" with the clarification of Chile's neutrality and the "exposure of rumours and intrigues circulated by sectors interested in weakening relations between the two countries."

Señor Jarpa noted that Chile's help in the rescue operations had evoked the gratitude of the Argentine Government and people.

Venezuela has warned Britain that, in the event of an attack on continental Argentina, Caracas would send Argentine military aid. Señor Bernardo Alfonso Leal, the Venezuelan Defence Minister, declared that if such an attack occurred, the other signatories of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty should also provide military assistance to Buenos Aires.

To understand the widespread sympathy for Argentina in Latin America, it must be understood that the average Latin American has always assumed that the Falklands really belong to Argentina. In schools throughout the continent, children learn about "the Malvinas" which the English call the Falklands.

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Strasbourg uncertainty Germans back Irish against sanctions

Members of the European Parliament, meeting separately at Strasbourg last night, seemed near to reaching a joint approach on the resolution to be debated here tomorrow on the Falklands crisis (George Clark writes).

Both draft texts put the main emphasis on Argentina complying with the United Nations resolution 502, calling for the withdrawal of Argentine forces and a settlement through diplomatic negotiations.

But the Socialists did not appear willing to give united support to the Conservatives' firm proposition that the EEC sanctions against Argentina should be maintained until the Argentines have withdrawn from the islands. The draft Conservative resolution asks the European Parliament to declare that "continued joint action by the Community will increase the likelihood of a peaceful settlement."

Continuation of sanctions could well be influenced by tomorrow's debate, when most of the Irish MEPs, some German Christian Democrats and most Commu-

nists will oppose the continuation of sanctions in view of British military action to regain sovereignty while diplomatic moves stand a chance of succeeding.

The Socialist draft puts more emphasis on an immediate ceasefire and on the United Nations assuming a central role as "the Arbitrator and supervisor of a settlement". It called on the United Nations to publish immediately its peace plan to implement Resolution 502 and to declare its readiness to place a United Nations presence on the islands until the negotiation over sovereignty are successfully concluded.

A debate on Thursday on the effectiveness of the grain embargo imposed against the Soviet Union after the invasion of Afghanistan also ended by implication, Argentina. A report from the external relations committee notes that although the EEC, Australia and Canada agreed not to make up lost American grain exports by increasing their own exports, Argentina refused to give any such undertaking.

King makes it clear

King Juan Carlos of Spain opened the thirty-first assembly of the International Press Institute at the mountain town of El Escorial near Madrid with an appeal for understanding of Spain's links to both Europe and the Americas (Harry Debelius writes). This was echoing a phrase from the letter in which he offered five days ago to mediate in the Falklands conflict.

Although he did not specifically mention the Falklands there can be little doubt that the King was trying to explain why Spain's position differs from that of most Western European countries.

"We know very well that Europe is our nearest geographical horizon," he said, "and we also know that Europe without Spain would be mutilated, lacking one of its essential parts."

"But Spain must be faithful at the same time to an historic destiny of universal dimensions. We are a European country but we are likewise an American country. I take the liberty of appealing to you to echo this Spanish message," the King said to the journalists.

In his letter last week to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the King made a personal offer "to contribute, in whatever way and to whatever extent may be deemed opportune, to peace in the South Atlantic."

Señor Jarpa noted that Chile's help in the rescue operations had evoked the gratitude of the Argentine Government and people.

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Red Cross refusal

Sweden asked the International Red Cross for help in questioning Captain Alfredo Astiz, an Argentine marine, captured on South Georgia by British forces. (Olof Stockholm Correspondent writes).

Captain Astiz, now onboard a British vessel with other prisoners of war heading for Ascension Island, is said by Sweden to be responsible for the arrest and subsequent disappearance in 1977 of Miss Dagmar Hagelin, a 17-year-old Swedish girl.

Miss Hagelin, daughter of Swedish businessman Mr. Ragnar Hagelin, was shot by Captain Astiz in a fashionable suburb of Buenos Aires and taken away in a military ambulance, according to eye witness reports reaching Sweden.

One witness, Norma Susana Burgos, herself a refugee from Argentina, was brought to Sweden by the Foreign Ministry in 1980 and described a meeting she had with Miss Hagelin in a military hospital after her arrest. She said that Miss Hagelin was chained to a bed and had a bandage around her head. Miss Hagelin recognized her and they had a brief conversation.

Sweden has repeatedly asked the Argentine authorities for clarification as to Miss Hagelin's fate but this has not been forthcoming. The Dagmar Hagelin case has become a cause célèbre in Sweden, rivalling that of Mr. Raoul Wallenberg.

● Geneva: The International Committee of the Red Cross will not take any action on the Swedish request to question Captain Astiz regarding allegations of involvement in grave human rights violations against opponents of the military junta (Our Correspondent writes).

It is totally out of the ICRC's domain to comply with such a request, "an official said. "We do not differentiate between prisoners under our protection. They all have identical status as far as we are concerned. Inquiries of this nature are dealt with under the provisions of the 1949 Geneva conventions."

Leading article, p13

Paris shock on Exocet

A report in The Sunday Times that French technicians had trained the Argentines to fit Exocet missiles to the 10 Super Etendard aircraft of this type, thus making it possible to knock out the destroyer Sheffield, has caused shocked dismay (Charles Hargrove writes).

According to a Defence Ministry source, France had done what it had to do as the loyal ally of Britain. The manufacturers of the Exocet had not instructed the Argentines how to connect the missiles to the underlying weapon pods of the Super Etendards.

But they (the Argentines) are making tools; they did it themselves," the source said. The British Government had been given precise details of French missile deliveries to Argentina. It did not appear to have drawn the right deductions from this information. Otherwise the attack on the Sheffield should have come as a surprise in London.

A report from Buenos Aires, published by Le Monde last week, quoted the Argentine Defence Ministry as saying that local technicians had "done a wonderful job" fitting the missiles to the aircraft.

An independent expert here told The Times that it was a job any well-trained aircraft technician could do. The missiles were delivered complete with a set of instructions.

There are French technicians in Argentina from the Dassault Aircraft Company, which delivered the Etendards, and from other French companies, but their role is purely maintenance, the source said.

More cruises hit: P&O complains of big losses

By David Hewson

Mediterranean, Canaries and Scandinavia.

The QE2 had planned a Mediterranean cruise and a transatlantic crossing involving two journeys to Bermuda and the Caribbean out of New York.

"We are making alternative arrangements but a lot of the passengers are frequent passengers on the QE2 and don't want to be transferred to another vessel," a Cunard spokesman said. "They prefer to wait until she returns."

Executives of P & O met representatives of the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Trade yesterday to complain that compensation payments for the requisitioned vessels are not being made quickly enough. The company was unwilling to emphasize its criticism of the Government yesterday, but said: "We are a little worried about the late payments due to us."

In fact, P & O believes that it is now out of pocket

because of the requisition. The company could have expected advance bookings and payment on both ships which would exceed the £5.4m it has received for the vessels, and the Elk ferry, so far. The Canberra payment includes a £750,000 requisition for 30 days, and a fee of £450,000 for the Uganda.

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Reagan speech and reaction

US hopes to cut Soviet long-range missiles

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, May 10

The aim of President Reagan's two-stage plan for cutting the American and Soviet nuclear arsenals by one third is to get the Russians to make sharp reductions in their powerful land-based force of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

In this way the Americans hope to bring more stability and equality to the nuclear relationship, which Washington contends has recently swung heavily in the Soviet Union's favour, and thereby reduce the risk of a first strike by either side.

In his speech yesterday to the graduating class at Eureka College, his alma mater, President Reagan called for a reduction in the numbers of land- and sea-based ballistic missile warheads to equal ceilings at least one third below current levels, and for only half the reduced number of warheads to be land-based.

He also called for equal ceilings on ballistic missile payloads — known "throw weight" — at less than current American levels.

The American proposals would reduce the number of warheads in either side's arsenal to around 5,000 and the number of missiles deployed by either side to about 850.

However, at present the Soviet Union's land-based ICBMs are bigger and more accurate than the Americans' land-based counterparts and can carry twice as many warheads.

The President said he was singling out land-based ICBMs as a first step in the arms reduction process because those weapons were "the most destabilizing systems in the arsenals of the two nations."

Of around 2,400 Soviet missiles, about 1,400 are land-based. They include 308 huge SS18s, each of which carries 10 atomic warheads. The United States at present has nothing to match this weapon. There are also 450 four-headed SS19s and six

reduction talks with the Soviet Union has drawn criticism from Democrats in Congress.

Senator Edward Kennedy, who has been leading the campaign for a nuclear freeze, remarked that "behind the rhetoric, the reality is that President Reagan's proposal would permit the United States to build the MX missile, the B1 bomber and an entire new generation of nuclear weapons. This is not what the American people want when they call for arms control."

Mr Edmund Muskie, a former Secretary of State, suggested that behind the President's proposals might be "a secret agenda for side-tracking disarmament while America rears. However, other Democratic Congressmen conceded that the President had made a "good start."

It is expected that conservative Republicans will attack the proposals because of their failure to refer to the concept of linkage to Poland and Afghanistan. Last January, Washington refused to agree to a date for starting strategic arms talks because of Soviet support for the imposition of martial law in Poland. Yesterday the President said he hoped the talks would begin at the end of next year.

Apart from the absence of linkage, the President's speech was also noteworthy for its moderate and conciliatory tone. He called for a "new understanding" between the two countries and expressed confidence that "together we can achieve an agreement of enduring value that reduces the number of nuclear weapons, halts the growth in strategic forces and opens the way to even more far-reaching steps in the future."

This is a far cry from the language used in his first press conference last year when he said that Soviet leaders had reserved "the right to commit any crime, to lie, to cheat."

Leading article, page 13

Kremlin condemns initiative

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, May 10

The Russians today dismissed President Reagan's latest proposals for deep cuts in Soviet and American strategic forces as a hopeless attempt to ensure American superiority over the Soviet Union.

"The thrust of the Administration's new approach to the talks on the limitation of strategic weapons is designed to be borne by the Soviet Union, which would have, if not to destroy, then at least to reduce the ground-based missiles with multiple warheads, while the United States would have to lessen the number of its missiles only insignificantly," Tass said.

The news agency describes the President's proposal as an attempt to neutralize the anti-nuclear movement in the world and growing anti-American sentiment in Western Europe.

Mr Reagan had kept quiet about the American pro-

gramme to deploy MX intercontinental missiles, strategic B1 bombers and Trident nuclear missile carriers. "These are precisely the systems by means of which Washington is trying to build up the arms race," Tass said.

Quoting American observers, Tass said there was far too little evidence that the Administration was showing a serious attitude to the question of limiting the arms race.

There is no doubt that the Kremlin is still deeply sceptical of any arms reduction proposals coming out of Washington and there will still have to be long hard bargaining before any element of the latest Reagan proposals find favour in Moscow.

● Bonn: West Germany today warmly welcomed Mr Reagan's nuclear arms reduction proposals as a sign of his "firmness and willingness to negotiate."

The President's speech at Eureka College, Illinois, yesterday was an "essential contribution" to the preparations for the Western summit meetings in Versailles and Bonn in June and to the constructive continuation of East-West relations, an official statement said.

By this it evidently meant that the President had done much to reassure his European allies — and their peace movements — that he wants disarmament as well as a strong Nato.

● Copenhagen: Former President Jimmy Carter described the Reagan proposals as excellent, but he added he would have preferred the Administration to go ahead with the ratification of the Salt 2 Treaty (AP reports).

● Tokyo: Japan today welcomed Mr Reagan's proposals, which were described as constructive in promoting nuclear disarmament.



At ease: Iranian troops take a rest on a couch left behind by the retreating Iraqis.

Khorramshahr siege is 'imminent'

Tehran, May 10.—Iranian troops have launched the third phase of their offensive towards the strategic port of Khorramshahr (Khu-min-shahr), Tehran radio said today, citing the Army's central command.

"The third phase of the offensive began Sunday night at 19.15 GMT with a powerful advance by Islamic combatants to liberate Khorramshahr," Press reports today said encirclement of the port city, held by Iraqi forces since the Gulf War began 19 months ago, was imminent.

Khorramshahr is the last important place controlled by Iraq in the province of Khuzestan, in South Western Iran. Iranian forces were advancing north from the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr highway towards the border town of Shalamche to control the region and its communication links with Khorramshahr, the radio reported.

"Enemy troops, who for several days had reinforced their fortifications and received reinforcements of armoured and mechanized units, suffered heavy losses," Khorramshahr, the "city of blood" where the Iraqis established a stronghold in the western sector, is a symbol of resistance and

courage to Iranians. Taking it would mean success for the offensive, launched on April 30, and the end of the war in Khuzestan, observers said.

UPI, reporting from Beirut, said Iraq claimed its troops repelled the Iranian offensive. A military communiqué said the three-pronged offensive started shortly after midnight but was repelled. One of the thrusts, against Khorramshahr, "was confronted and foiled". The Iraqis suffered heavy casualties and material losses, it said.

Film on Iranian television showed harsh fighting, with the bodies of hundreds of Iraqi soldiers and the wrecks of dozens of their armoured vehicles. The commentary "had fallen into anti-tank traps the Baghdad troops had themselves dug".—AFP

● Since the offensive began, Iran claims to have recaptured 1,300 square miles of territory, taking the towns of Hamid, Hoviseh and Hosseini, Tehran radio said. Its troops also crossed the Karun river, splitting the Iraqi force occupying Khuzestan and forcing Iraqi units to pull back to the frontier.

Apparently scenting victory in the war, Iran sought to reassure other Arab countries in the region by saying it wanted good relations with all its neighbours. A Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by the radio said: "We emphasize once again that we support the policy of peaceful coexistence in the region."

The statement, however, said that future relations with the countries in the region would depend on their attitude towards the Iranian revolution. Conservative Gulf states have sided with Iraq in the war.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry attacked President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and pledged to help the Iraqi people to overthrow him.

After Shaikh Isa's arrival, the official Kuwaiti news agency said Shaikh Jaber had telephoned President Hussein to discuss what it called matters of mutual concern. It gave no other details. Kuwait is about 60 miles from Khorramshahr.

Recent successes have toughened Iran's position on the war. Several Iranian leaders, including President Ali Khamenei, have said the war would continue until the regime in Baghdad is overthrown.

The latest phase of the Iranian offensive appears to be the most difficult military operation facing Iran's rulers. If successful, it would deprive Iraq of any leverage to press the war to a face-saving conclusion.

The emir of Bahrain, Shaikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa, arrived in Kuwait on a state visit, during which he was expected to discuss the war with the Emir of Kuwait, Shaikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah.

Bahrain has poor relations with Iran, which it has accused of being behind an alleged plot against Shaikh Isa's government. Iran has denied the charge — Reuters.



Britain will not 'buy' sanctions

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels, May 10

Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, this evening strongly criticized suggestions that Britain should buy an extension of EEC sanctions against Argentina by agreeing to an increase in farm prices.

It was Britain, he said, which was bearing the vast bulk of the cost of standing up to the military aggression of a dictatorship and which the Community had condemned. It would, he said, be a terrible reflection on the Community if it were to be suggested that its foreign policy was worked out on the basis of negotiations on the level of farm prices.

This, he said, was just not a sensible way for European foreign policy to be seen and would be no credit to the Community if the outside world were given the chance to view it as such.

Mr Walker, in Brussels for the last round of negotiations on the size of this year's farm price increases, was being closely questioned by French and West German journalists about whether Britain was prepared to offer European Solidarity, its partners in return for the agreement by the EEC to impose trade sanctions on Argentina.

Mr Walker rounded on the questioners. Of course Britain would support any of its partners if its own sovereignty was threatened by a foreign aggressor. But there was not and could not be any suggestion that a debt of gratitude was due by Britain to its partners merely because it was standing up to an aggressor.

As far as farm prices were concerned, he made it clear that Britain, along with Greece and Italy, still maintained its reserve duty, current price package, estimated to cost an average of about 11 per cent more on agricultural spending.

Britain would, he emphasized, veto any attempt to impose this increase by a majority decision and he regarded it as a dangerous distortion of the common agricultural policy for any nation to introduce national aid to make up any loss in farmers' income due to a failure to agree a price deal.

Mme Edith Cresson, the French Minister, said that she would have to accept a British veto on prices if need be, rather than try to push through the majority decision.

EEC sourness ruins lunch

From Ian Murray, Brussels, May 10

Mr Gaston Thorn, president of the European Commission, cancelled a lunch date today with the European economic press when he was due to discuss "25 years of the Community".

According to his secretary, who had the job of ringing round to call off the luncheon, he had felt unable to attend because of the crisis in the Community. There had, she explained, been a meeting during the weekend which had gone so badly that Mr Thorn was not able, at the moment, to talk about the subject.

The meeting was the one held in the beautiful village of Villiers-le-Temple, deep in the green countryside southwest of Liege. All the foreign ministers from the Community had gathered there for what has become a traditional away-from-it-all informal get-together when the problems of the world can be discussed out of the public eye.

The first meeting of this type was held in June 1974, at Schloss Gymnich, outside Bonn. That meeting proved so successful that the foreign ministers decided to institutionalize it, with each country acting as host for one during its six-month presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Yesterday was the second time Belgium had staged its "Gymnich formula" meeting in the thirteenth-century commenderie at Villiers-le-Temple. On the first occasion, in October 1977, Britain was under heavy pressure from all its partners then to confirm its commitment to EEC membership.

This past weekend it was under similar pressure to agree to pay its membership fees — in the form of budget contributions — and was similarly unable to impress its European partners with its European commitment.

Part of this bad feeling clearly rubbed off in terms of the discussion over whether or not the Community should continue its sanctions against Argentina over the Falklands crisis.

There can be little doubt that if Britain was not causing trouble over the

budget issue, support over the sanctions would have been more forthcoming. As it was, it was because of Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister who chaired the meeting, that the level of discontent with Britain was not made clearer.

He had been authorized to tell the press that EEC support was at a political, diplomatic level "but not a military solution to the conflict". Mr Tindemans, in an extraordinary press conference, did not utter those damning words and so, perhaps, gave slightly more clarity to the British position.

The second Villiers-le-Temple meeting could well mark a new stage in the evolution of the community. It was no longer a quiet, away-from-it-all meeting. Apart from the fact that angry farmers with their tractors invaded the meeting place, it meant that the press had formalized its right to find out what had been going on behind the supposedly closed doors.

There can be little doubt that if Britain was not causing trouble over the

Setback for climbers on Everest

Peking — Cold and fatigue drove a British expedition on Mount Everest temporarily back to base camp after reaching a height of 25,600ft on a tough unclimbed route on the Tibetan side.

A report from the six-man team led by Chris Bonington said four of the climbers had spent three weeks at altitudes too high for the body to get proper rest.

They had planned to set up a further camp at their high point last week before attempting the most difficult part of their climb up the virgin east-north-east ridge, a series of dangerous pinnacles.

British film men injured

Grasse — Two British filmmakers were seriously injured when the helicopter they were using to make a publicity film crashed near the French Riviera town of Grasse.

Mr Jerry Paulson, 51, a producer, and Mr Seamus Corcoran, 42, a cameraman, were taken to Nice hospital after the low-flying helicopter was thrown in earth by a gust of wind.

Rebels clash with Thai force

Bangkok — Thai government forces sent reinforcements to a northern province after a clash with a heavily-armed group of Shan United Army (SUA) rebels that left four people dead.

The fighting broke out when the government forces encountered about 40 rebels seeking food from villagers, police said.

Namibia contact

Geneva — Mr Chester Crocker, the American Assistant Secretary of State for African affairs, had a full day of meetings with South African representatives, a United States official said. The subject was Namibia, although South Africa declines to acknowledge it. (Alan McGregor writes).

Crash kills 30

Bahrain — Thirty people died when a South Yemen airliner on a domestic flight plunged into the sea after it came in to land at Aden airport. The aircraft broke up after it hit the sea about half a mile from the coastal runway and came to rest in shallow water. Nineteen people were saved.

Sabbath flights

Jerusalem — The Israeli Supreme Court has forbidden the Government to suspend El Al flights during the Jewish Sabbath, pending authorization from the finance committee of Parliament. Employees of the national airline had appealed against the decision to stop all El Al flights from Friday to Saturday evening.

Counterfeit haul

Rome — Italian customs police seized counterfeit dollars with a face-value of more than £250,000 at Rome's international airport shortly before shipment to the United States. The \$100 banknotes were apparently printed in Naples. Three men are in custody.

Birds seized

Santhia, Italy — A farmer, who allegedly smuggled protected birds of prey to Arab countries, has been arrested here. Several hawks, falcons and eagle owls were seized from his farm.

Brezhnev trip

Moscow — President Brezhnev has accepted an invitation to pay an official visit to Nicaragua. The Soviet press said, without mentioning a date for a trip.

Doctor tells of Hinckley obsessions

Washington, May 10. — John Hinckley's psychiatrist told a court here that Mr Hinckley told him four months before shooting President Reagan that he had two obsessions in life: Miss Jody Foster, the teenage actress, and writing.

"I care about nothing else," Dr John Hopper, the psychiatrist, said Mr Hinckley told him in a November 1980 counselling session. Dr Hopper said that he saw Mr Hinckley 12 times between October 28, 1980, and February 27, 1981. The following March 30, Mr Hinckley had admitted, he shot President Reagan and three other men outside a Washington hotel.

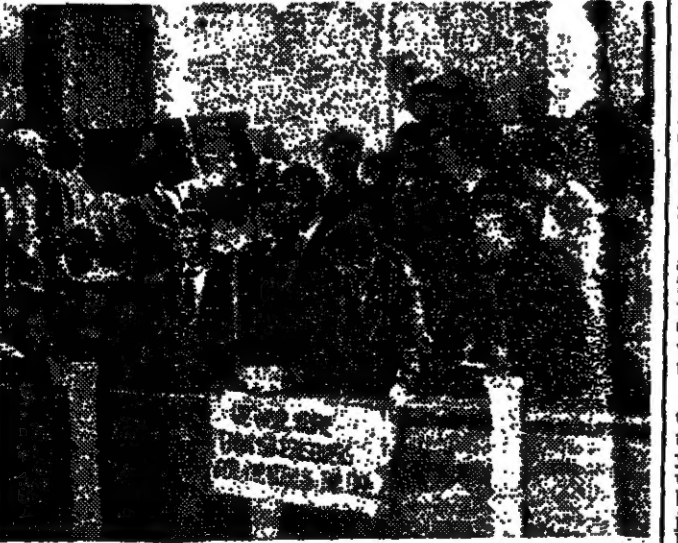
A month before seeing the psychiatrist for the first time, Mr Hinckley went to New Haven, Connecticut, where Miss Foster was a student at Yale University, in hopes of establishing a "relationship."

In an autobiography he wrote for Dr Hopper, Mr Hinckley said that, while he was in New Haven, "my mind was on the breaking point the whole time...the relationship I dreamed about went nowhere."

During Mr Hinckley's depression, his father had wanted to send him to an Arizona mental hospital, but Dr Hopper talked the family out of that course.

The elder Hinckley had wanted to institutionalize his son to curb his use of the tranquilizer Valium, but Dr Hopper told the assailant's father that the dosage was not enough to cause the depression Mr Hinckley experienced.

Instead, Dr Hopper proposed a set of goals designed to make the younger Hinckley more independent and, in the meantime, administered treatments designed to reduce his anxiety.—AP



Protest in the pews: A woman in the congregation welcoming Dr. Billy Graham to Moscow hangs a sign protesting at the lack of religious liberty in Russia.

Limited hopes of Moscow religious conference

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, May 10

A world religious conference opened here today with a call from Patriarch Pimen, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, for a joint struggle by all religious leaders against nuclear weapons and a message of "profound approval" for the conference's work from Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister.

Addressing 450 brightly-robed delegates, representing several dozen churches and religions in 37 countries, Patriarch Pimen expressed concern over the emergence of a doctrine of "limited" nuclear war, and expressed his church's support for the Soviet Government's offer to freeze deployment of its missiles in Western Russia.

On the platform beside him was Dr Billy Graham, the American evangelist, who is taking part in spite of strong opposition by the Reagan Administration.

Seven delegates and observers from Britain included a Quaker, a member of the

Roman Catholic organization Pax Christi together with the Rt Rev John Baker, Bishop of Salisbury, and the Rev Richard Charles, secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A large number of Anglican clergy from Africa are also attending. The Vatican has sent two senior observers but no official delegates, although Roman Catholic bishops have come from Poland and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

Several Western clergy said after the opening session that they were hopeful the conference would not be simply a propaganda forum, and said the 72-year-old patriarch's address showed sensitivity to the political and religious differences among the delegates.

They said the conference would not achieve any dramatic results, but could help to create an atmosphere of confidence and East-West understanding essential for any steps towards abolishing nuclear arms.

Fight cancer with a will

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund is one of the world's leading cancer research centres.

Day in, day out, leading specialists in cancer research continue their intensive investigations into all aspects of cancer — causes, prevention, treatment and — ultimately — cure.

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Form of Bequest

I hereby bequeath the sum of £..... pounds (or the equivalent in cash) to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London WC2A 3PX for the purpose of scientific research, and I direct that the residue of the Executors' Trustee or Secretary shall be a good discharge for such legacy.

Please send for further information to The Secretary, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London WC2A 3PX.

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

Church appears split as Poles urged to strike

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, May 10

Both the Polish government and the church leadership are worried that street protests this week, especially on Thursday, will produce yet another violent confrontation, possibly alarming the Soviet Union and strengthening the hand of the hardline Marxist.

The emerges explicitly from sermons given over the weekend and implicitly from anxious commentaries in the Polish official press.

The Solidarity underground, via a short burst of radio transmission last night, broadcast a call for a 15-minute general strike on Thursday, to mark five months of martial law. The appeal has already been circulating in several factories in the Warsaw area and, as inter-city telephone links are now functioning, it must be assumed that activists have passed the word to other cities.

Although there is nothing much that the authorities can do to prevent such a short strike, it will encourage the underground which, since its steel marches on May Day, has become more open in its defiance of martial law.

According to some activists, the protests will gradually escalate and plans have been mooted for a transmission on television wavelengths — technically possible — and further demonstrations in the following week. Almost every week now produces an anniversary

of some event under martial law — for example the shooting of miners on December 16, 1981, could be used as a reason to protest.

But police behaviour on May 3 was meant to show both the populace and, in the view of Western diplomats, the Soviet Union that the military authorities would not tolerate public disorder.

The Primate, Archbishop Józef Glemp, seems in his concern to avoid public unrest, to have accepted one of the Government's explanations for the street riots last Monday — that they were staged overwhelmingly by young people who had been misled by underground activists.

In sermons in Warsaw, Cracow and Czesochowa over the weekend, the Primate constantly emphasized that "it is a horrible crime to exploit the noble patriotism of the youth for purposes which are not patriotic".

Other priests, however, say privately that the street unrest is not so much a youth rebellion, as a symptom of popular discontent with martial law.

The official news agency unusually carried the Primate's sermons in considerable detail, and a lengthy television commentary last night (again very unusually) showed clips of the riots in an attempt to demonstrate that such riots were "anti-patriotic" and anti-socialist.

The Munich-based station, Radio Free Europe and the American-based Voice of America are, as usual, blamed for encouraging the demonstrations, by broadcasting times and places of planned protests into Poland. It is understood that the Foreign Ministry has protested to the US Embassy in Warsaw about the radio programme.

The official press seems to be motivated by different concerns in criticizing the riots. Newspapers such as *Rzeczpospolita* which are often viewed as expressing the line of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader appears to be worried that dialogue and the social calm needed to establish a front of national understanding will be undermined by the unrest. That is, the hardline Marxists will point to the street troubles as being proof that dialogue does not work.

Other newspapers, such as the *Army* and *Dziennik* (which at the weekend criticized *The Times* for not mentioning British behaviour in Northern Ireland in its reports of the May 3 protests) appear to view the riots as proof of the continuing activities of Solidarity "Extremists".

Underpinning both these approaches, which mirror the divisions in the party leadership, is the fear that the destruction of Poland's fragile calm will alarm Moscow.

Marcos dismisses his Supreme Court

Manila, May 10 — President Ferdinand Marcos, citing the "tarnished prestige" of his Supreme Court, accepted the resignations of all 14 justices today and said he would form a new court.

He made the announcement in a letter to Chief Justice Enrique Fernando, after a scandal over the tampering with a bar examination to allow one of the justices' sons to pass.

The President's action left the country temporarily without a Supreme Court, the body that upheld the legality of his powers during eight years of martial law, which ended last year.

Chief Justice Fernando, contacted at his office, declined to comment on the acceptance of the resignations of the court. He and four other justices — Mr Antonio Barredo, Mr Ramon Aquino, Mr Ramon Fernandez and Mr Vicente Erisa — were linked to a scandal that involved a bar examination taken by Mr Erisa's son, Gustavo.

The Chief Justice admitted allowing Mr Gustavo Erisa's results to be changed but denied that that was improper because, he claimed, a mistake had been made by

the examiner. The other justices either denied involvement or said that there was nothing wrong with what they did.

President Marcos's letter stated the "prestige, integrity and good name" of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. In order to create a new court without the burden of tarnished prestige, the present Supreme Court, I have decided in accordance with the advice given me to accept, as I hereby accept, the resignations of all members of the present Supreme Court," he wrote.

The President, who had appointed all 14 justices, said he would name the new court as soon as possible. It would include, he added, "the members of the present Supreme Court whose terms of office are not recommended for termination". — AP.

Seven bombs exploded in public places around the city of Zamboanga today, killing four people and wounding 70 others. Zamboanga is considered the key city in the troubled southern island of Mindanao, where Government forces are fighting Communist Muslim separatist insurgents.

The party outlines options for Solidarity

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw, May 10

The Polish Communist Party's views about how and whether to revive the Solidarity free trade union organization have been spelled out with unusual clarity in a restricted 14-page document drawn up by the party's ruling Central Committee.

The document, issued by the propaganda and agitation department of the Central Committee, is intended for use by Communist Party lecturers touring provincial factories in an attempt to mould the opinion of Polish Workers.

So far, the Government's views have been expressed only in vague terms, in a draft Bill intended for public discussion. This concentration on what the Government did not want, political strikes, a politically-motivated Solidarity leadership, and an organization that challenged membership of the Warsaw Pact.

However, until now it has not been made clear how the party intended to achieve these aims. The latest, officially approved, lecture notes — outlines three possible variants.

First, Solidarity could be reactivated but would shed the political elements of its programme and get rid of its present advisers. This option, the document states, is only feasible if a new "initiative group" comes into being and forms a new hierarchy in the union. It would acknowledge the leading role of the Communist Party in Polish society.

The second option under consideration is creating two union organizations — one could have a Christian democratic character, and the other would have a "leftist" that is Communist Party, foundation and would bear the name Workers' Solidarity. The calculation, made clear in the document, is that Workers' Solidarity would gradually dominate the Christian democratic version.

Finally, Solidarity could simply be dissolved, though the document concedes this would arouse opposition in Poland and the West.

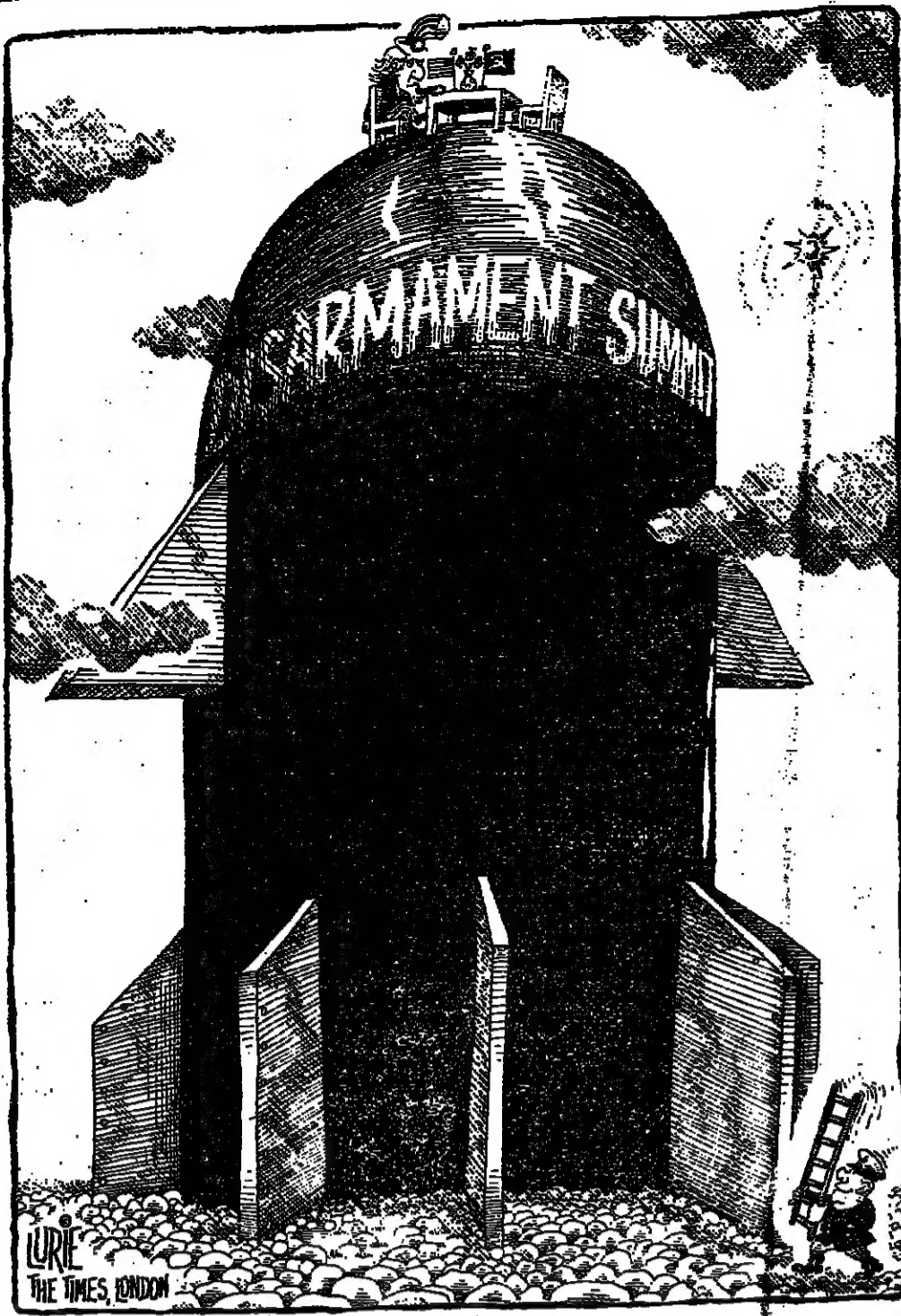
A variant would be to dissolve both Solidarity and the official union and create a single official union with heavy ideological commitment to the party. This would only be possible when the "party forces have consolidated," says the document, meaning when the party has reestablished its considerably eroded influence in the factories.

The document does not weight the argument in favour of any of these options: rather they are intended as a framework for decision-making within the party.

The first two options are clearly favoured by those adhering to the line of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, and the third option — dissolution of Solidarity — is probably only supported by a minority of the politburo.

At present, Solidarity and the official unions are suspended but not banned and the authorities have made some attempts to incorporate Solidarity activists — that is those who are not interned or in the underground — in the discussion about the future shape of trade unions.

The document, entitled "Information for Lecturers: problems of the Reactivation of Trade Unions", was evidently leaked by a party lecturer to Solidarity underground activists.



Mitterrand confounds critics after first year

Paris, May 10 — President Mitterrand today celebrated the first anniversary of his election, bolstered by popularity and public support for France's first Socialist government in 50 years.

"None of the catastrophes announced by the Opposition have happened," said the presidential spokesman, M. Pierre Bergey, who called the accomplishments of M. Mitterrand's government "honourable" after one year.

"The nationalizations (on industry) and decentralization (of governmental power) are two essential reforms. With them and the reform of workers' rights, change is starting to take place."

When 1,000 French citizens were polled last week, 56 per cent said they believed the Socialist Government would stay in power for its full term of office — seven years for the President and five for the National Assembly.

Thirty per cent said the Government would collapse before its mandate ended and 14 per cent had no opinion. Another survey showed that if elections were held now, M. Mitterrand would win a larger majority than his victory last year against the former President, M. Valéry Giscard

d'Estaing and the Gaullist leader, M. Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris.

M. Mitterrand has learnt the art of compromise, especially in economic policy. Nationalization of 36 banks and five industrial groups was passed only after courts ordered higher compensation for the expropriated assets and a tax package worth £1,000m to pay for increased welfare spending was shelved.

M. Mitterrand has loudly denounced the Soviet Union but also enraged the United States by selling arms to Nicaragua.

The Socialist Government suffered a major setback in March when regional elections gave the Opposition control of 58 of 95 provincial councils.

The centre-right Opposition immediately called the elections a defeat for the Socialist-Communist coalition, announcing that "the French are refusing a socialization of the country."

● Bonn: President and Mme Mitterrand will make an informal visit to West Germany on May 14 and 15 on the invitation of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, the West German Press Office announced today. — UPI.

E German charged with spying

Berlin, May 10 — An East German agent charged today with spying on military installations of the three Western allies in West Berlin, a justice department spokesman said.

Joerg Wilke, of East Berlin, was arrested last December with four Soviet citizens, an diplomat and three military officers who were later deported to East Berlin after a joint investigation by American and West German authorities.

Reports that were unconfirmed but not denied at the time said the arrest came after an East block attempt to engage a United States sergeant as a spy. The sergeant told his superiors but was instructed to meet the Russians and Herr Wilke in order to lure them into a police trap, newspaper reports said.

The charge of spying on allied military installations in West Berlin technically carries the death sentence as the highest penalty for endangering allied security.

Herr Wilke's trial is not expected to begin until late June, the spokesman said. — AP.

Post-election El Salvador

Suchitoto, a town with a great future behind it

From Paul Ellman, Suchitoto, El Salvador, May 10

The crack of a G3 assault rifle brought the mayor to his feet. He glared angrily from his office window at the sheepish-looking young soldier outside who had just accidentally discharged his weapon.

"We're always complaining to their commander about the way they fiddle with their safety catches," the mayor said. But the children playing in the street carried on as if nothing had happened.

Gun-fire is nothing unusual in Suchitoto, a dying town of abandoned homes and businesses where El Salvador's political future is still expressed more in terms of hope and faith than with the almost complacent conviction that the situation is improving — the feeling which has gained ground lately in the capital, San Salvador, only 28 miles to the south.

The town has become a symbol to both sides in a war which has claimed more than 33,000 lives during the past two-and-a-half years. It entered into the mythology of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front in January last year, when they claimed to have held it for seven days. The Salvadoran government forces have persistently denied that they ever lost the town and have maintained a hold on it, albeit tenuous at times, since the offensive.

During the contest for control most of the town's inhabitants fled. Only 6,000 of the 28,000 people who once lived here have remained, with the bulk finding refuge in festering camps on the outskirts of the capital.

Although the Government has committed troops to a string of positions along the only highway into and out of Suchitoto, the road was cut early today by guerrillas who attacked four miles from the town.

"Watch out, there's shooting ahead," warned a soldier manning a roadblock. A helicopter gunship called up from San Salvador sprayed the guerrillas with machine-gun fire near the roadside.

Two correspondents, relying upon a white handkerchief attached to a car radio, serial to signal their neutrality, were somewhat perturbed when three heavily armed government soldiers stopped them and ordered them to take them to Suchitoto. A fourth soldier, disgruntled that there was not enough space for him, fired a round at the driving car.

The town and a desolate air in the main square, unemployed fieldworkers who fled from surrounding hamlets to escape last year's fighting, squatted in abandoned shops. Their children played naked among pigs that roamed the square.

"The voice of a soldier singing as he rummaged on a guitar echoed through the emptiness of what had once been a department store, the Almacén Santa Emilia, but

which now served as a billet. Only the rich silver plate and the finely carved wood fittings of the altar in the church of Santa Lucia vouched that this had once been a prosperous community.

"We used to grow sugar cane, maize, beans and rice around here; Suchitoto was famous for its cigar-makers and for religious figures, made out of sugar," said the mayor, Señor Alfredo Padilla. "Now, because all the businesses which used to pay taxes to the municipality have gone, we can't pay the employees."

Señor José Carlos Fernandez, the town clerk, remembered when Suchitoto used to fill at weekends with visitors drawn by the fishing and boating available on nearby Lake Suchitlan. "There were three bars and three restaurants. You could drive to San Salvador at any time of the night without any problem," he recalled.

The mayor's office was decorated with portraits of early predecessors and a photograph of the late President Kennedy. There was also an oil painting of the engineer who brought piped water to Suchitoto: an irony, because the town has been without water since March 26, when guerrillas blew up a pipeline which ran from a mountain six miles away.

It was not the first time they had done this. "The longest we've had water over the past two years is two or three weeks," said Señor Padilla. Because working sent out to repair the pipeline were dead by guerrillas, the town now relies upon five road tankers to bring water every two days — only a quarter of Suchitoto's needs, according to officials.

The shortage of water is felt particularly keenly at local schools where children have to run home from classes whenever "nature" calls here to be answered.

Not that the local school system resembles what it was like before the town was struck by civil war. Only four schools are functioning in a district which once boasted 45 in all and there are now less than 50 teachers where once there were 185.

Señor Alfredo Alas, the director of the Suchitoto school district, reported that the military situation had deteriorated in the past two years following a lull in guerrilla activity after the March 20 elections. "In the daytime it is quiet, but there is 'shooting every night'," he said.

● The independent press Lord Chinnai has described the recent elections in El Salvador as "so fundamentally flawed as to be invalid". In contradiction of the British Government's favourable report (the Press Association reports).

Lord Chinnai visited the country at the same time as the two observers, Professor Derek Bowett, of Cambridge University, and Sir John Galsworthy, former British Ambassador to Mexico.

Prisoners of conscience



Philippines: Father Edicio de la Torre

By Caroline Moorehead

Father Edicio de la Torre, a Roman Catholic priest of the Society of the Divine Word, was arrested on April 22. He was one of the leading exponents of liberation theology, the Latin American "radical" of religious movement against economic, political and cultural repression, which is growing in strength in the Philippines.

He was a founder of the Federation of Free Farmers in the early 1970 set up to protect the interests of smallholders of landless workers.

Father de la Torre is 38 and has already spent nearly six years in detention. From December 1974 to April 1980 — and the two previous years underground, since the declaration of martial law in September, 1972, made all Left-wing movements suspect. On that occasion he was one of 33 people charged with conspiracy to commit rebellion.

All the other accused were released by 1979 but Father de la Torre was freed six months later, and then only after an extensive international campaign on his behalf.

Even so, his release was made "temporary" and granted on condition that he continue his theological studies in Rome. On his return to the Philippines last year he therefore still faced possible charges of conspiracy to rebellion.

A priest's arrest last year is believed to have been a detention centre of the Fifth Military Intelligence Group at Bago Bantay in Quezon City.

Nature is victim of recession

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, May 10

An increased world commitment to the preservation and improvement of the environment making good the ground lost in the last decade, was urged today when President Daniel Moi of Kenya opened an international conference attended by representatives of more than 100 countries.

Called to mark the tenth anniversary of the 1972 Stockholm conference which agreed to establish the United Nations Environment Programme, it seeks a new commitment to environmental protection. But Senator Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, sent a message to the conference with a warning that a decade of economic recession had brought an unprecedented wastage of the earth's natural resource base.

The commitments made at Stockholm in 1972 must not be allowed to fade, he said.

President Moi, in his speech, gave a warning that poverty was a principal cause of the destruction of basic natural resources, and expressed disappointment at the failure of the international community to deal with the problem of poverty in the developing world.

Dr Mostafa Tolba, UNEP's executive director, said in his address that the options facing governments now was stark: take action or face certain disaster.

Progress had been made since the Stockholm conference produced the world's first action plan to safeguard and enhance the environment for the benefit of present and future generations. Economic and environmental science had matured, and increased knowledge had been gained in many fields.

Dr Tolba said, however, that governments were not using the knowledge that was now available. In some cases, the concepts of ecological sound management had been ignored.

Correction
On April 23, it was wrongly stated that the recently reopened Sir Zeit University, near Jerusalem, had been closed for two weeks. The suspension lasted two months.

Third time lucky for condors?

From Ivor Davis, Ventura, California, May 10

Conservationists were dealt another severe blow recently in their efforts to save the giant California condor from extinction.

For months, as part of a multi-million Save the Condor project sponsored by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Audubon Society, ornithologists have been watching two rare condors mate.

Eventually the couple produced an egg, but last March the scientists watched in horror when the egg was broken after a domestic squabble between the prospective parents.

Although romance bloomed again and a second egg was laid, a hungry raven has now laid the villain of the piece. Watching through a powerful telescope quarter of a mile from the mountain nest, the scientists saw eggs number two come to naught.

As one of the condors tried to stave off the raven the egg was accidentally sent rolling out of the nest, across a rock and over a cliff.

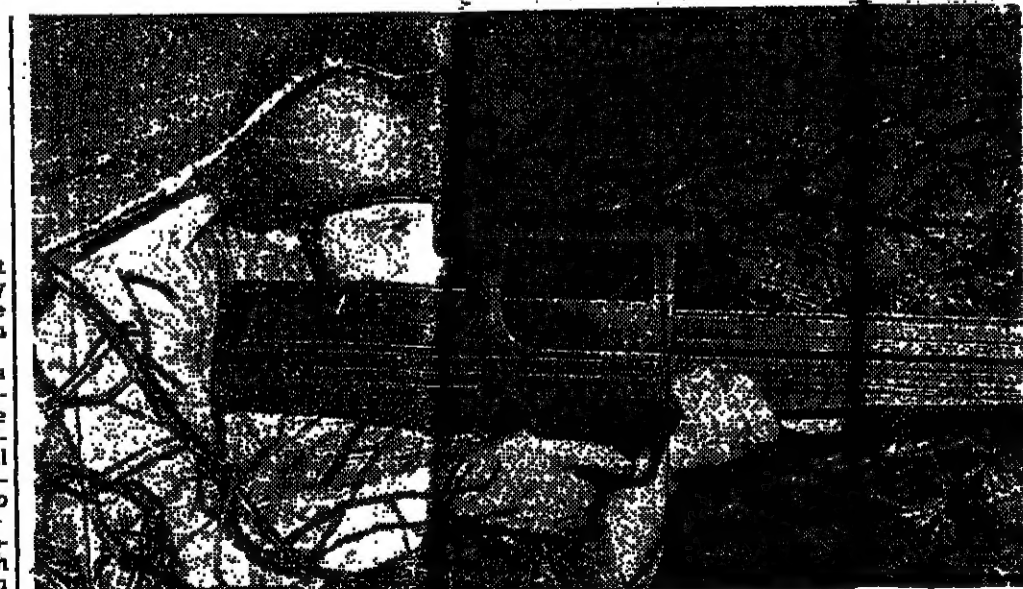
It shattered and the raven ate the remains.

"This is very sad," said Mr Jesse Grantham, a member of the team trying to save the tiny flock of huge vultures from extinction. "We had high hopes this time — we thought they were going to make it."

Mr Grantham said that after early squabbles the condors had settled down quietly to the business of hatching the egg and the watching teams' hopes began to soar that the long wait would pay off.

But then the ravens showed up and so alarmed the biologists that they received permission from wildlife officials in Sacramento and Washington to shoot the aggressive ravens.

"Now we're hoping it will be third time lucky", Mr Grantham said.



Economic aim: A West German soldier demonstrates the G11, a German-made rifle being tested by Nato. It fires a new, cost-cutting 4.7mm bullet with no cartridge.

Yemenis hooked on chewing the qat

Sana, May 10 — Qat, a mild drug widely used by the people of North Yemen, plays a leading role in the country's economic and social life, but is almost completely ignored in national statistics.

For instance, the North Yemen five-year plan runs to 255 pages, but qat rates only six lines.

As soon as the muezzin chants the noon prayer-time, qat becomes an important national preoccupation, and few meetings or conversations take place without it.

Offered as small bunches of leaves, sometimes in plastic bags, it is often sold by children, who pick it wild and display it in the same way that fresh fruit is sold beside country roads in Europe.

The French writer, Joseph Kessel, described qat as "the miraculous Yemeni plant which gives energy, joy, relaxation and a slight intoxication."

In fact, it contains a weak alkaloid which has the same effect as an amphetamine, a synthetic stimulant.

To get the most out of the drug, habitués chew the leaves until they form a spoggy ball in one cheek. These balls are often huge and some addicts end up with swollen cheeks. Chewing qat does not bar smoking or drinking water at the same time.

Women chew the leaves almost as much as men, but never in public and only with other women.

Children start from the ages of 12 and 13, even though their parents try to stop them doing so, just as a Westerner will try to stop his offspring smoking or drinking too soon.

A Yemeni air hostess explained: "It helps pass the time and it makes you forget your tiredness."

Like many drugs, qat empties the pockets of its addicts. A bunch of leaves of good quality — there are different "varieties" — sells for 10 rials (about £1.20p). As 10 bunches can be chewed in a day, it is estimated that a habitué can easily spend 100 rials (£12) daily on the habit.

In this remote, mountainous land the annual average per capita income is only

£120, making it one of the world's 31 poorest countries.

North Yemeni economists responsible for the five-year plan admit that the growing of qat over a wide area of arable land has caused a drop in food production, as the land might otherwise have been used for other crops, helping to increase exports and cut down on imports.

The Government insists that it is doing its best to limit the growing and consumption of the plant and that no credit or aid is given to farmers to grow it.

In 1972, the Government ordered the destruction of all qat plants, grown on land owned by Muslim organizations.

Defenders of the drug point out that less food is consumed by those who use it. Although it is better to eat food before chewing qat, its acid content can upset an empty stomach — there is no doubt that it does cut down a person's appetite.

Its only apparent negative health effects are mild symptoms of: insomnia, constipation and sexual apathy. — AFP.

ETA plans to exploit World Cup

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, May 10

Suspected Basque terrorists captured at a police road block near Madrid over the weekend were planning to carry out activities which would make the World Cup football competition a sounding board for their political message, according to informed sources here.

After the arrests in Madrid last week of four people believed to have had contacts with ETA, the separatist organization, police detained two wanted ETA men and a common criminal, as the three were approaching Barcelona by car.

The mission of the ETA men was, according to reports, to lay the groundwork for a series of extremist actions to take place in the last few days before the opening match of the World Cup round of the World Cup.

Police named the principal suspects as Señor Urquiza Vizcaya Olazola and Señor José Luis Folguera Alvarez of the political-military wing of ETA, and said two Basque-made Browning pistols were found in their car.

The two men were wanted for questioning in connection with the kidnapping of two other people, a mortar attack on the Civil Governor's office in Pamplona and the destruction of a police armoured car.

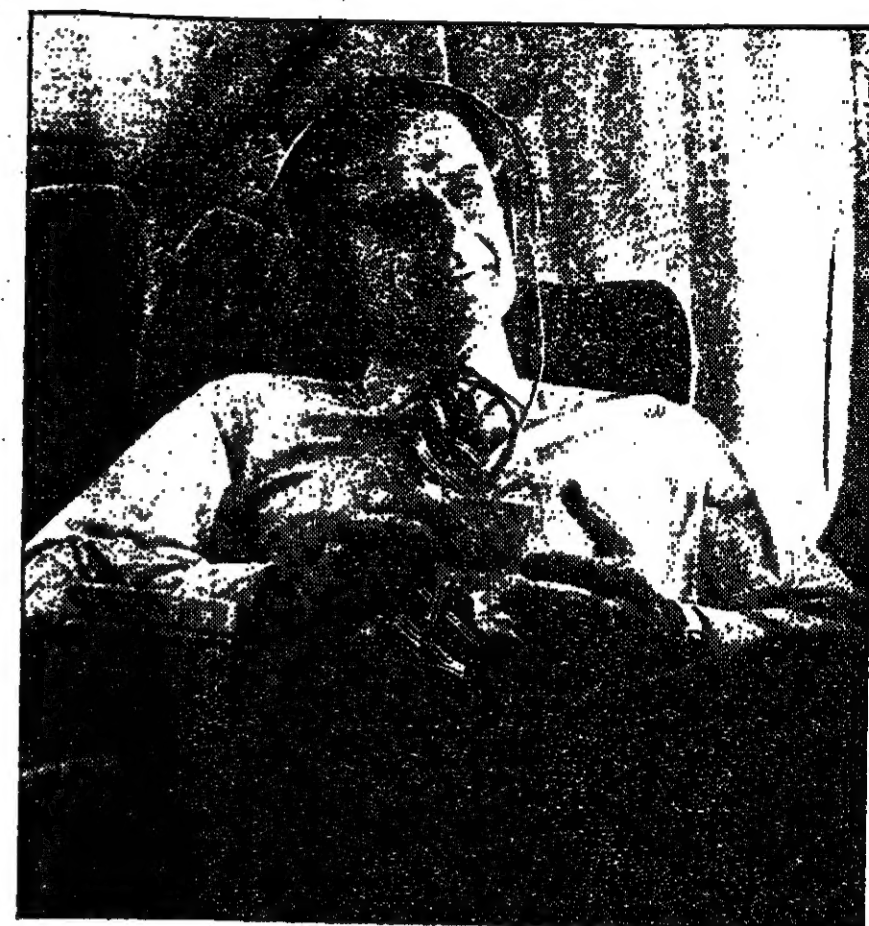
In Bilbao, engineers and technicians assigned to the still unfinished Lemona nuclear power plant were today to decide whether they would go back to work.

In the southern Spanish city of Almería, Señor Ignacio Bayon, the Minister of Industry and Energy, today said the need for construction work to continue at this plant — because you can't give in to terrorist blackmail.

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Male fashion: by Suzy Menkes

Making light of the faintly formal

Smart casual wear sounds like a contradiction in fashion terms. But the renaissance of lightweight tailoring — especially for summer jackets — is a strong trend in menswear.

Sports clothes now dominate so completely out-of-work wardrobes that I had begun to think that menswear was going to come down to suits versus The Rest. Blouson jackets, sweatshirts and jeans are still the favourites on the men's clothing rails. I was interested to see that when the children's TV programme *Blue Peter* invited fashionable suggestions for its presenter, Peter Duncan, 95 per cent of the drawings sent in were for variations on jeans and trainers. An entire generation is growing up which has never seen dad in a sports jacket.

The newest jackets around are the exact equivalent of the one-time British male's classic leisure wear, but they are made up in lightweight fabrics which give them an altogether different style and dash.

Significantly, the directional Paul Smith of Covent Garden has made no casual jackets this season. All his new designs are tailored, including a good-looking Prince of Wales check jacket (£129) and a splendid ginger cotton suit with front-pleated trousers (£149).

Lightweight suits, like those

half-gentrified city areas, are always supposed to be up-and-coming. It is surely only our climate that prevents the careful male shopper from investing in an outfit that is a standard in countries with a serious summer. Jaeger say that lightweight suits are hard to sell in our summer season. Since all suits have been pared down and are far lighter in weight than even ten years ago, a fine serge suit can get a man through all but a heatwave.

A jacket is a different matter, partly because it costs half the price of a suit (say £48 to £95) and because it is so obviously versatile. It can go now with fine flannels, with leather trousers, with jeans. It can be worn with toning trousers to stand in as a business suit, or with colourful sailcloth on holiday.

Harvey Nichols specifically aim to make this mix by picking clothes (from different designers) in toning colours. Hornes are also emphasizing tailored and stylish clothes under the banner of "Positive Dressing", a neat way to counteract the sloppy image still in evidence in the streets.

We have the Italians — and especially the unbeatable trio of Armani, Versace and Bastie — to thank for the new sharp edge to lightweight tailoring. The styling of their own accessories is also a pointer for general menswear. On the whole, the more formal the

outfit, the more casual the accessories: a crew-necked crumpled cotton sweater under a sharp cream suit; a formal dark shirt and tie under a snazzy striped blazer; a rope belt with a silk suit; plain leather with textured seersucker.

An explosion of pastel colour has put men in the pink — with lemon yellow a runner up. These unexpected colours are used for the most classic V-neck sweaters or for the fresh cotton knits, like Alan Paine's range at Simpson. Again, it is how the colours are put together that is crucial: baby pink goes with sober grey, sharp lemon with dark navy, and the more extrovert the colour palette the quieter is the design of the sweater itself.

Since men's socks and ties are supposed to be a fashion pointer, I should report that the latter are sober, and the former more fancy than we have ever seen. Paul Smith has a splendid range of Neapolitan ice cream striped cotton hosiery.

Lightweight tailoring is a grown-up look, although young men have been quickest to catch on to the trend. Ironically, middle-aged spreads are still being zipped into leather blousons and even in some ossified circles popped into denim. Since the kindest cut of all is the one that comes from good tailoring, the jacket revival should be widely welcomed.



Snippets

There is rather a charming story behind that koala bear sweater which must surely rank as the Princess of Wales's most appealing pregnancy outfit. She actually borrowed it from her husband's wardrobe. Her own version is a kangaroo, and the pair of jumpers were a wedding gift from Kim Wran, daughter of the Premier of New South Wales.

The all-Australian sweaters were the work of Jenny Kee, whose Flamingo Park shop in Sydney is a mecca for fashion conscious (and patriotic) young clients.

Jenny Kee started her fashion career when she lived in London in the 1960s and sold her designs in the Chelsea Antique Market.



"Now my whole idea is to create Australian fashion," she said, when I spoke to her in Sydney last week. "It's hard to think of something more typical than pure new wool knitted up from Australian sheep."

More creative and unusual knitting (but no koala bears) will be seen on Thursday, when Patricia Roberts opens her new wool shop at 31 James Street, Covent Garden.

Her aesthetically photographed pattern books inspired those of us who never quite got round to knitting her intricate fair isles. Knitters will find the Covent Garden shop stacked with her wide colour range of wools, shown against white tiles rather than the inevitable homespun and wicker baskets.

Top: Navy pin-striped cotton double-breasted jacket £47.95, matching trousers £25.75, by Matinique from Way in Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Lemon and blue striped seersucker shirt £25, navy and yellow spotted tie £3.75, and lemon lambswool gloves £17.50. All from Quincey's, 137 King's Road, SW3. Spotted hanky from Margaret Howell, Pale lemon socks by Carri from Harvey Nichols. Beige leather loafers from Jaeger.

Above: Slimy striped lined blazer £79.50, brown seersucker trousers £27.50, and navy/white tab-collared shirt £18.55. All from Quincey's, 137 King's Road, SW3. Belt by Mulberry.

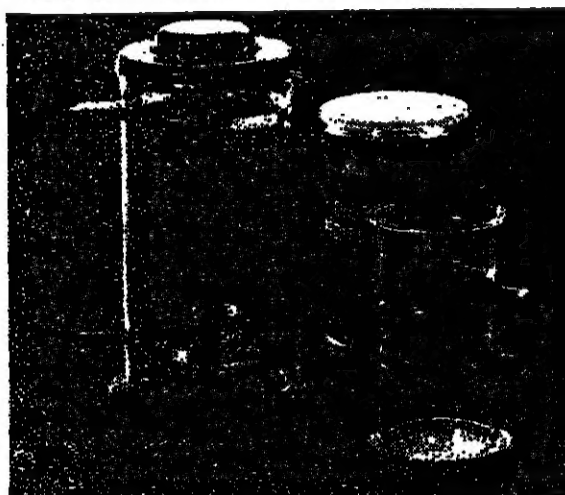
Left: Blue and white checked striped lined blazer £45.50, khaki cotton shirt £17.50, and blue cotton tie £4.50. All from the Cotswold's, 14 Christopher's Place, W1. Beige linen double-front trousers £39 from Margaret Howell, 32 St Christopher's Place, W1. Glasses by Ray-Ban.

Far left: Khaki cotton lined double-breasted jacket and matching trousers £99.50, ochre cotton/linen seersucker sweater £23.95. Both from Woodhouse, 30 Oxford Street, W1. 411 Oxford Street, W1; 14 Kensington High Street, W8; 38 Brompton Road, SW3. Glasses by Ray-Ban.



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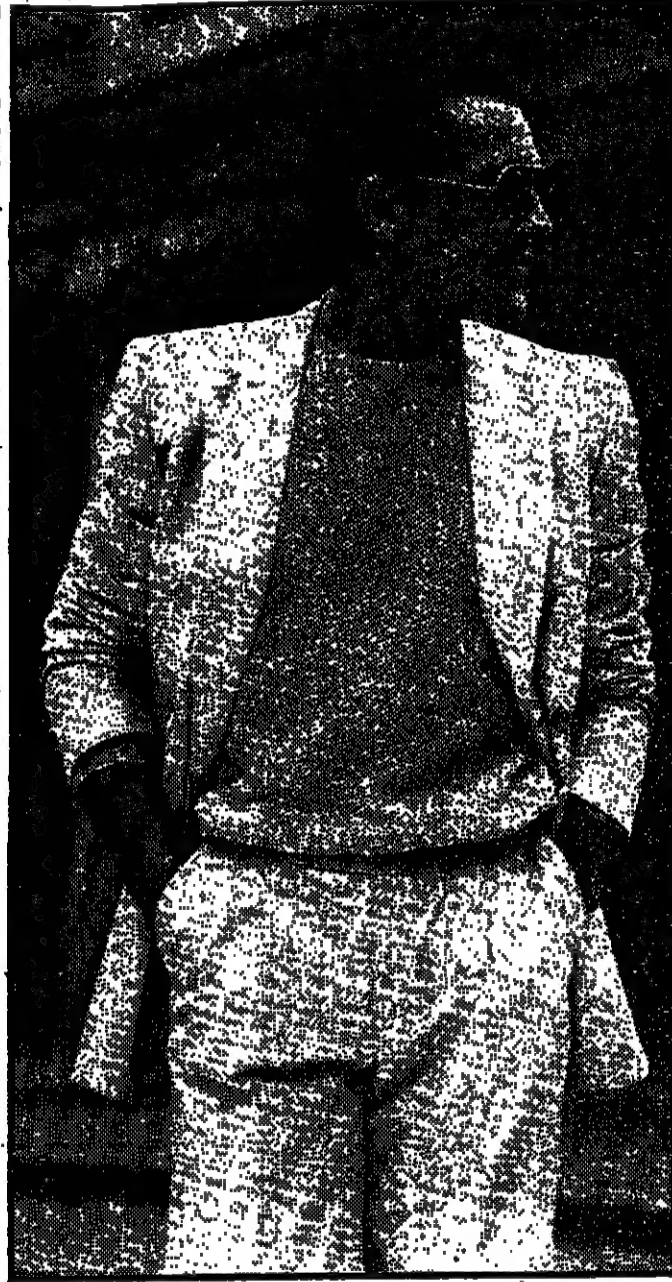
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House of Lords

Law Report May 11 1982

Probation day centre order invalid

Cullen v Rogers
Before Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Bridge of Harwich and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook.

[Speeches delivered May 6.]

A crown court placing an offender on probation with consent under section 2(3) of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973 had no power to require the offender to attend a day centre unless the statutory conditions in section 4 applicable to attendance at a "day training centre" as defined were satisfied.

The House of Lords unanimously so decided when dismissing a prosecutor's appeal against a majority decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Mr Justice Thompson and Mr Justice Cantley, Lord Justice Waller dissenting) (*The Times* October 10, 1981), who had set aside a decision of the North Tyneside justices that Deborah Rogers was in breach of a condition imposed at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court. Section 2(3) provides: "Subject to the provisions of sections 4... a probation order may... require the offender to comply... with such requirements as the court... considers necessary for securing the good conduct of the offender or for preventing a repetition by him of the same offence or the commission of other offences."

Section 4 provides: "(1) Where a court makes a probation order, it may... subject to the provisions of this section... (a) a requirement that [the offender] shall... attend at a day training centre specified in the order.
(2) A court shall not include such a requirement... unless... (a) it has been notified by the secretary of state that a day training centre exists for persons of the offender's class or description who reside in the petty sessions area in which he resides or will reside; and (b) it is satisfied that arrangements can be made for his attendance at that centre."
(3) A requirement included in a probation order by virtue of this section shall operate to require the probationer... in accordance with instructions given by the probation officer responsible for his supervision, to attend... at the centre

specified in the order; (b) while attending there to comply with instructions given by, or under the authority of, the person in charge of the centre."

Section 5(1) defines a day training centre as meaning "premises at which persons may be required to attend by a probation order containing a requirement under section 4."

LORD BRIDGE, with whose opinion all the Lordships agreed, said that a probation order imposed on the respondent for two years had additional requirements that she was to attend the Northumbria Probation and After Care Day Centre in North Shields as instructed by the probation officer, and during such attendance was to undertake and participate in such activities as the probation officer directed.

She failed to comply and proceedings for breach were instituted against her. The crown court remitted the case to the magistrates' court, which rejected her challenge to the attendance requirements. Her appeal to the Divisional Court succeeded. The certified question of general public importance involved in the decision was: "What is the power contained in section 2(3) of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973 limited by section 4, if at all?"

It was rightly conceded by counsel for the prosecutor that a court could not, under the guise of a requirement imposed pursuant to section 2(3), require a probationer to perform such unpaid work as would appropriately be the subject of a community service order under section 14 of the Act.

No requirement to reside in any sort of institution could properly be imposed under section 2(3). Similarly, a requirement to attend for a given number of hours at an institutional establishment and there to comply with instructions of a

wholly unspecified character given by the probation officer would go far beyond the range of such requirements as could properly be imposed under section 2(3). There never was any power to require a probationer attend at a day training centre or any similar institution, however, called, until Parliament expressly conferred that power, subject to appropriate regulation and restriction, first by section 20 of the Criminal Justice Act 1972 and now by section 4 of the 1973 Act.

The certified question was so narrowly framed that a direct answer to it would be misleading. Solicitors Radcliffe & Co for R. F. Kidd & Spoor, Whitely Bay; Gregor, Rowcliffe & Co for Hadaway & Hadaway, North Shields.

The prohibition against making a probation order unless the probationer "expresses his willingness to comply with its requirements" could not be considered to give jurisdiction to include requirements in a probation order which were not otherwise authorized by the terms of the statute. Section 2(3), which authorized the imposition of such requirements as the court considered necessary was very wide, but the power to impose requirements under it had to be subject to some limitation in at least two respects: (1) a requirement must not introduce such a custodial or other element as would amount in substance to the imposition of a sentence; (2) any discretion conferred on the probation officer pursuant to the terms of the order to regulate a probationer's activities, had itself to be confined within well-defined limits.

It was rightly conceded by counsel for the prosecutor that a court could not, under the guise of a requirement imposed pursuant to section 2(3), require a probationer to perform such unpaid work as would appropriately be the subject of a community service order under section 14 of the Act.

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Auction sale exclusion unfair under Act

Southwestern General Property Co Ltd v Marton
Before Mr Justice Croom-Johnson.

[Judgment delivered May 6.]

The general conditions of sale excluding liability for misrepresentation in an auction catalogue did not satisfy the test of reasonableness laid down in section 11 of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 and were void by section 8 of the Act. His Lordship gave judgment in the Queen's Bench Division for the defendant, a purchaser of property, in an action brought by the plaintiffs, the vendors of the property, which was sold by auction. The defendant rescinded

the contract on the ground of innocent misrepresentation and the plaintiffs claimed damages. Mr Thynne Forbes for the plaintiffs, Mr Peter Langas for the defendant.

Subsidy and grant in buying house

Wood v South Western Co-operative Housing Society Ltd
Before Lord Justice Ormrod, Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice French.

[Judgment delivered May 4.]

Basic residual subsidy received by a housing association under the Housing Finance Act 1972 was a grant within the meaning of section 2(2) (c) of the Housing Act 1980 and the association could not claim to be within the exception to the right of a secure tenant to buy his home under the 1980 Act.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the South Western Co-operative Housing Association from a decision of Judge Best, sitting in Bridgewater County Court who had ordered that Mr William Wood of 30 Dunkley Road, Bridgewater, Somerset, was entitled to buy the freehold of his home.

Mr Peter Millett, Q.C. and Mr Dirk Jackson for the housing association, Mr Wood in person.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD said that the housing association, claiming that the right to buy was excluded by section 2(2) (c) of the Housing Act 1980, was an enactment meaning "a grant" within the meaning of section 2(2) (c) of the Housing Act 1980.

It was accepted that Mr Wood was not a secure tenant. The association admitted that it had received basic residual subsidy under section 72 of the Housing Finance Act 1972 but Mr Millett contended that the words "grant" and "subsidy" were not synonymous and that the subsidy was not a grant.

Establishing planning appeal facts

F.A.D. Entertainment Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another
Moorchat Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

When appealing against an enforcement notice under section 88(1) (a) and (b) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, it was necessary to establish the

facts relevant to the planning history and use of the premises, and an appellant was therefore required to provide a statement of facts in accordance with section 88(2) of the Act. Mr Justice Stephen Brown held, dismissing two appeals heard together in the Queen's Bench Division on May 7.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the

THE ARTS

Galleries

The painter as performer

Picasso and the Theatre

Burstow Gallery,
Brighton College

The Eye of the Storm

Brighton Polytechnic

George Heming Mason

Stoke-on-Trent City
Museum and Art Gallery

After last year's centenary overkill of exhibitions, you might think there would be precious little left to be said about Picasso. But, as usual, the old devil has the last laugh. His activities were so many and varied his career was so long, that there is always something else to be picked out and illuminated. It was a real inspiration this year for the Brighton Festival to take as one of its themes the relations of Picasso with the theatre. His continuing involvement in theatre, not only painting theatrical subjects very frequently but also, more practically, working as a theatre designer and a dramatist, has not had much attention paid to it recently. But Brighton is now reminding us with rehearsed readings of two of his dramatic writings, *Desire Caught by the Tail* and *The Four Little Girls*, a new ballet for the Ballet Rambert based on Picasso images (reviewed by John Russell Taylor last week), about computerized crime for which Picasso designed settings, and an ambitious show, *Picasso and the Theatre*, at the Burstow Gallery of Brighton College until May 30.

In a sense this is primarily a teaching exhibition, stronger on documentation than on original works of art. But the theatre designer's work is always filtered through the interpretations of others, whether of the scene painters who paint his sets and backdrops and of the costumers who make his clothes, or, more subtly, of the performers who wear the clothes and the directors or choreographers in charge of what goes on in the sets. So

recent realizations of classic Picasso designs for new productions such as the Venice Festival Ballet's 1973 *Tricorne* and the same company's 1975 version of *Parade* — are not necessarily inferior, (except in some indefinable mystical and of course the front curtain of *Le Train Bleu*, this though painted under Picasso's direct supervision, is by now getting to look decidedly rubbed and faded, and therefore possibly misleading as to the effect intended by Picasso when it was painted).

All these, along with the "dancing machines" reconstructed for the Venice 1980 version of *Mercury*, are on show in the Great Hall of Brighton College, to which the Burstow Gallery can be arranged as a costume after seeing the designs. The effect of seeing the highly dramatic costumes, especially the *Tricorne* costumes, displayed as imaginatively as they have been by Pauline Whitehouse, mounted on boards in the poses of the designs, and of course the large scale of the *Train Bleu* curtain is overwhelming. But it all has much more meaning when we come to it through the useful and meticulously documented introduction offered by the rest of the exhibition.

Here we have some original designs (many of them fished out of the seemingly infinite bottom drawer of the prospective Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris), including real sketches such as the original watercolour sketch for the front curtain of *Parade*, which throws unexpected light on the evolution of this famous design. But the photographs and texts, covering the complete range of Picasso's stage designs, would be hard to connect with the later documents and sketches which Picasso himself as a performer remind us usefully how much of his art began as performance — as well as how far beyond performance he finally took it.

The other major exhibition in the Brighton Festival is *The Eye of the Storm*, in the gallery of Brighton Polytechnic until May 27. It is drawn from another seemingly limitless bottom drawer, that of the Imperial War Museum, and concerns itself with artists' reactions to the First World War. The first impression is one of almost total unfamiliarity in the War Museum's collec-

tion of material by official war artists there is so much that most of it can rarely be shown except briefly. In special exhibitions such as this and those regularly staged by the museum itself, the second impression is one of amazed admiration at the extraordinary variety of response and the extraordinary intensity of what all this could come out of something one would suppose to be so constraining as a government-sponsored scheme for recording a war.

One need only lead half an ear to the fuses currently being aired about how the Falklands crisis should be recorded by the media, and whether the Argentines should be represented as human beings, suffering equally from their human losses, to see the kinds of problem which must have faced these war artists in the era of the white feather and stoning of deserters on the streets.

As you might expect, the major artists concerned, such as Paul Nash, Spencer and Wyndham Lewis, emerge as, well, major. What is not so much to be expected is the fine showing made by then pillars of the English art world, Orpen and Tonn, and by now virtually forgotten artists like W. Bernard Adeney, Harold Williamson and Charles Pears. Clearly almost no one could regard his own work as unimportant, and the unbelieveable, appalling horror of trench warfare, the mud and the blood, Williamson's *Stretcher Bearers* of 1918, with its body face-downwards in a flooded shellhole, slightly overstates the horror of the war, conveys the horror by almost ignoring it. Orpen's *Dead Germans in a Trench* (1917) looks horror in the face, and is so far removed from Orpen's slick social portraits that one can well believe him marked for life by his war experiences. And, in other cases, one can clearly see such characteristics, distinctive but minor artists as John Nash and William Roberts reaching, in these special circumstances, an intensity of feeling and brightness of pictorial organization which they were never to achieve again.

Other artists were able to stand further back without loss of this special intensity. *Memorials to the Armies* (of troops at Victoria Station) has a classical pose which places war as a specific act of aggression. Rothstein's *Hut*, Belgium, like Orpen's *The Butte*



Overwhelming scale: Picasso's front curtain for "Le Train Bleu"

de Warlencourt, finds lasting beauty in the midst of devastation. Only very occasionally is the exhilaration of battle shown — as in Sydney Carline's *The Destruction of an Austrian Machine in the Gorge of the Brenne Valley*, where we are conscious mostly of the beauty and romance of flight. As a rule the view is bleak indeed: as often in human history, the artist was a truer indication of the real nature of things than the politician, the pundit and even the philosopher. There is little so powerful or convincing as the artist's "I have felt".

One could hardly be further from the horrors of war than in the Arcadian dreamland of George Heming Mason, whose faded reputation is revived at Stoke-on-Trent City Museum and Art Gallery until June 12. And yet Mason saw more of the horrors of war directly than any other Victorian British artist. I can think of during his bohemian youth he was a medical orderly with Garibaldi's army, in which his brother was enlisted, and was close to battles notorious for their bloodiness while tending their

agonizing human consequences. The dreamy tranquillity of his later dusk scenes was, one suspects, a hard-won escape.

Though Mason seems at first glance just a minor local figure, interesting or less interesting according to taste, oddly enough he was in background development one of the most cosmopolitan of all British contemporaries: while in Rome in 1852-53 he was to be a lifelong friend, and also a leading figure of the Macchiaioli, or early Italian Impressionists, and Arnold Böcklin, the Swiss Symbolist. Something of both Costa's technique of sketching from nature and Böcklin's haunted atmospheric seems to have gone into Mason's later work, marked when after an unproductive interval following his marriage, Leighton persuaded him to take up serious painting again.

It is these romantic, melancholy, rather other-worldly pieces, such as the Tate's *Harvest Moon*, *Girls Dancing* and *The Evening Hymn* (which vanished in the 1950s), upon which Mason's

reputation rested, while he had one. Towards the end of his not over-long or over-productive life (he died in 1872, at the age of 54), he was quite famous, but his fame did not long survive the new century — partly because there was too much of his work on view to keep it alive, and partly because he did not really fit conveniently into the context of Victorian art.

For modern spectators, his works are the most interesting things about it. Some photographs he had taken of costumed models for *The Harvest Moon* show how firmly he imposed his own vision on the awkward facts of nature, how subtly his paintings are unified by their pervasively elegant quality, and how little they have to do with life as it was lived in the real English countryside. He is never going to look like a very important painter, but he is certainly a lot more remarkable, both in what he was and what he stood for, than many others who have been revived with much more of a flourish.

John Russell Taylor

Interview: Richard Griffiths

Momentum of the month

Richard Griffiths exudes that aura of instantly recognizable success which can only be bestowed by television. The circle of fame has been woven thrice around all 18 stones of him by *Bird of Prey*, the four-part BBC 1 thriller about computerized crime which ends on Thursday. Griffiths plays Henry Jay, an amiable civil servant in a dead-end job who happens to stumble into a fiendishly complex plot, the main elements of which are that somebody keeps trying to kill him and everybody else lies to him. Combining, as it does, fascinating electronic hardware, taut plotting and some excellent location filming, it has found a precise niche in the audience's consciousness.

"Cheers, a great performance!" called a bunch of businessmen at a neighbouring table when I had lunch with him. Another shyly collected his autograph — "for the boys," Griffiths takes it all with amused amusement. *Bird of Prey* is just one project among several which are surfacing at the moment, but it is one that has worked. In *Whoops! Apocalypse*, the London Weekend comedy show he now realises is a "bit iffy", he played Ebenezer, in Lindsay Anderson's new film *Britannia Hospital* he plays a rabidly jolly disc jockey, in Richard Attenborough's *Chandni* he plays a journalist, and in *Forman's Ragtime* he was a lawyer. He is back on television next month in the *Tyne Tees* play *The First World War*.

"But unfortunately I'm now out of work. I'm the one that put the unemployment figures back over three fully down to its vast expanse of waistcoat. Griffiths' accent still bears a few traces of his north-eastern origins. His parents were both deaf and dumb so it was in sign language that he learnt his father's view of acting as being "no career for a man". That was after he had worked at becoming an artist and ended up working for Littlewoods. It was there that his potential was spotted — should he wish to acquire a few O levels he might prove to be a management material. In fact it was the interviews at fine art colleges which put him off fine art and anyway "painters only make it after they're dead". So he went to drama school in Manchester and finally started earning a living in 1969 at the Harrogate Opera House. It was only £7 a week but it started five years of work in rep until he joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1974.

"Work took on more significance when I arrived at the RSC but it didn't last long. I was paid off in March 1975. Then came my longest period of unemployment — six months until I got a television, in the first episode of *When the Boat Comes In*."

But he was back at the RSC in 1976, and he stayed until August 1980 when, having been a member of the cast of the company's *Once in a Lifetime*, he found himself in a West End transferred production and unable to be rehired at the start of the RSC's new season.

As it happens he had begun to test the typecasting anyway. Always the comic character, useful heavy or a Shakespearean lord, he particularly smarted at having always to speak prose — one verse — the King of Navarre, had whetted his appetite. Leaving the womb of the RSC thus came as a timely shock to his substantial system. Nevertheless, typecasting does mean you are in work and Griffiths is not one to make the mistake of underestimating the value of his physical presence.

"I remember this chilling story about Trevor Nunn. He met an actor who had just lost four stone in weight and was rather proud of it. Trevor told him he had just



lost 400 per cent of his casting potential. Mind you, I'd lose five stone right now if somebody asked me to do Hamlet."

Henry Jay is not Hamlet, nor was he meant to be. Rather he is T. Alfred Prufrock, as the film's references to J. S. Eliot's poem is intended to establish. But Henry does dare to leap, to grasp at the strange intrusion into his boring life and not to let it slip to the bottom of it. The mystique of this intrusion lies in its evocation of the arcane of computers. Henry, for all his ordinariness, is privy to the electronic age's secrets and facts as our blinding guide to its power, containing our sickly fascination with reminders of its nastiness.

And sure enough Griffiths himself has felt the tacky obsession with the monsters. He regrets having given up maths and thereby losing the grounding which could have allowed him to understand them. But he does enthusiastically recount the kind of anecdotes and conspiracy theories they inspire in an odd, schoolboyish but undoubtedly evangelistic way.

But the mundane world of his career Griffiths is at something of a loss. "I know what I don't want to do but I don't know what I do want to do." For five years he has been involved with an attempt to get a film of Anne Tyler's novel *Celestial Navigation* off the ground and there is an unspecified major offer in the air. But having been a hugely respected character actor and then finding himself a hugely popular television face, he has left himself understandably confused as to what to do next. "It's strange to find myself the flavour of the month." It is to be hoped that human voices do not wake this particular Prufrock lest he drown.

Bryan Appleyard

Music Projects

Riverside Studios

While we all wait for the Covent Garden production of Stockhausen's *Donnerstag*, Richard Bargas and his ensemble, Music Projects London have nipped in and brought music from the opera to London for the first time. Sunday night's performance was planned to have been a comprehensive sample of the work, with sections from each of the three acts, but in the event we had to be content with something rather less.

Hungarian SSO/
Lukacs

Dome, Brighton

A tour of several British centres brought the Hungarian State Symphony Orchestra to the Brighton Festival on Sunday, but without their principal conductor, János Ferencsik, who became ill before travelling here. His place was taken by Erwin Lukacs, the orchestra's second conductor, though the only intimation of this at the Brighton concert was a spoken announcement when the players were already seated.

Alban Berg Quartet

Wigmore Hall

Schoenberg's fourth quartet was the centrepiece of the Alban Berg Quartet's polished recital on Sunday. Although written in 1936, in the wake of Bartok's distilled, seminal essays in the medium, it bears the marks of Schoenberg's essential conservatism. For all its adherence to serial procedures, it has a standard classical four-movement plan and even a vague tonal feeling. And, despite its

Debuts

London

Timothy Hugh's recital with Robert Lockhart began with an accurate and sensitively phrased account of Schumann's *Fantasiestücke*, Op. 73; his tone, impeccably produced, poured forth in an unending stream of music though with just a hint of blandness. The performance of Britten's Suite No. 1 in G for solo cello was introverted yet highly charged, but it was the closing *F major Sonata* of Brahms that offered the variety of colour lacking earlier. Here, as throughout, Mr Hugh was fearless in the face of all technical demands; the excitement of risk-taking came only in Mr Lockhart's

Concerts

Flavours of Stockhausen's youth

The composer decided at short notice that the finale, "Vision", had to be withdrawn for correction, and it clearly proved impossible to excerpt anything from the middle act, a kind of trumpet concerto in which the soloist, representing the Archangel Michael, makes a musical tour of the planet. What was left was "Examination", which is the principal scene of the first act, and "Michael's Greeting", a sombre and immense fanfare devised to alert and prepare the audience for the solemn spectacle to come.

To judge *Donnerstag* from this evidence would obviously be like judging *Siegfried* from the hero's dialogue with the Wanderer and the Rhine journey music. More realistically, we were confronted with two independent works, each designed by Stockhausen to function by itself as well as to sustain a particular flavour within the whole framework of his seven-opera cycle.

In "Examination" the flavour is that of youth, not only Michael's but more particularly Stockhausen's. The musical atmosphere is set by a solo piano, which plays almost continuously and which surely recalls the composer's experience as a

jazz pianist in the immediate postwar years: the part was played with the wandering and delicate by Green-Armistead. Over this, Michael's chant was sung with youthful bloom and eagerness to please by John Potter, and his instrumental voice in this obscure sequence of his seven-opera cycle.

In "Examination" the flavour is that of youth, not only Michael's but more particularly Stockhausen's. The musical atmosphere is set by a solo piano, which plays almost continuously and which surely recalls the composer's experience as a

how-wow" concerto his bite was as strong as his bark with inflammatory double octaves at speed matched by an inner musicality of phrasing, not least in the central section of the slow movement, and an avoidance of emotional indulgence.

Loud acclaim brought him back to play a grateful encore in the "December" Waltz from Tchaikovsky's keyboard calendar, *The Seasons*, and he did not disdain to play the orchestra's ensemble piano for the small but significant keyboard element in the suite from Stravinsky's *The Firebird*. Here the playing was strong on instrumental colour, as in the glittering "Firebird's

"Dance" and a fierce "Infernal Dance", but short on romantic mood-painting for the quieter sections.

A similar contrast was evident as between the virtuosity of Weber's *Die Freischütz*, which was given a prosaic performance at the start of the programme, and Kodaly's *Dances* from *Galanca*, where the woodwind choir in particular imparted a cheerfully bucolic character to the rhythmic revelry. A festival engagement of this kind, however, might have brought us more up to date with the orchestra's native repertoire, now that Hungarian music is reportedly flourishing again.

Noël Goodwin

Andante not merely warm, but introspective.

It might have seemed regressive to end with Schumann's A major Quartet, Op. 41 No. 3, yet in this sentimental music the quartet penetrated beneath superficial elegance to expose all its urgent restlessness. A finely calculated rate made the slow movement's emotion all the more real, while the dramatic playing of the variations elevated the work, composed in 1842, the *annus mirabilis* of Schumann's chamber output, from the salon to the heart.

Stephen Pettitt

Vandemark comes nearer than I would have thought possible to bringing it off but it must be in the showpiece repertoire that a "double bass virtuoso" (as he is billed) comes into his own.

For that reason I was sorry to have to miss what promised to be a lively second half in order to catch at least part of Michael Blackmore's piano recital. I heard a forceful, strongly motivated interpretation of Schumann's *Carnaval* which took an occasional tumble as a result. It was a performance not lacking in moments of poetry but making its considerable impact by sheer dynamism.

Barry Millington

Television
Matters
in mind

Human Brain (BBC 2) wanted to have it both ways, by combining mystery and scientific realism, the unexplained with the too readily explicable. As the credits rolled, we saw something that looked like a rumpled piece of old velvet, bathed in blue and green light; this was the Gothic brain, eerie, labyrinthine, with perhaps a monster at its centre. And then, in one of the most horrific sights of the week, we saw a surgeon delving into someone's head. The cranial juices swirled like water in a pit. The blood and the brains resembled some surrealistic version of strawberries and cream.

These disparate images neatly summarized the basic question which the programme posed: is the brain a mysterious entity over-ruled by a shadowy "mind" which represents "the self", or is it a complicated bundle of nerves and tissues which in its workings is the mind and the self? It is an old argument which has moved to a new context: the transcendentalists line up on one side, the behaviourists on the other.

The human focus of last night's investigation was Vicki, an American woman who because of severe epilepsy had had the hemisphere of her brain surgically divided. As a result, her right and left hemispheres have a certain degree of independence from each other, picking separate dresses out of the wardrobe at the same time; the developed left hemisphere of the brain will try to explain to itself what the relatively undeveloped right hemisphere is trying to do.

By describing things in this way I have, of course, already fallen into a trap of which the programme itself was a victim. By creating the brain as the subject of an active verb, I am lending it a separate identity which it may not in fact have. Throughout the programme, active verbs and personalized metaphors were used to explain the brain's behaviour: a "dominant" hemisphere "takes over" from a "subservient" one, and so on. Such language suggests that the brain is independent and self-willed, thus prejudging the question which the programme wanted to pose.

To put it simply, has Vicki two brains and therefore two minds — or is there a single mind which yokes the heterogeneous brains together and unites them in a single self?

By turning the brain into a character, out of Poe or at least Wells, and by giving it more irreconcilable conflicts than a tragic hero, it was natural that *Human Brain* should by the end have implicitly adopted a materialistic stance and asserted that the brain is the mind. But it offered very little evidence to support its theory. As always with programmes of this kind, what was really demonstrated was the inability of scientists to "know" anything at all with certainty. *Human Brain* left me little brain bewildered. It raised questions which could not be answered, and offered explanations which it could not substantiate.

Peter Ackroyd

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Alexander Solzhenitsyn surveys the world and issues a sombre warning on the advance of communism

Why can't the West see this is no time to smile?

Switch on a television set in the West, leaf through any magazine or newspaper, and all you will see is bright smiles, from government leaders down to the man in the street.

Each day marks a shrinking of the island that is the western world: it is under the threat of missiles, rocked by the devilish spiral of inflation, with each of its peaceful steps shaken by bomb explosions. The world is rolling joyfully towards an abyss but the West keeps smiling. And these smiles are a habit learned in the earliest youthful years to conform with the West's social code.

American youth is expected always to respond "OK", to amuse itself all the time. Whoever formulates doubts or evinces concern is promptly called a misfit or vicious. The ferocious desire to appear happy at all times humiliates and undermines humanity.

As to us, in the East, the inertia of accumulated suffering over decades had freed us of that falsely joyful air. In the face of the camera, our faces remain the way they are in real life — downcast.

At every moment, at least one country somewhere is falling under the tooth of totalitarianism. But without understanding its horrible nature, without trying to roll it back, all that one does is send to those countries television crews to shoot films of the blood, sweat, and tears to offer us afterwards a show in our comfortable sitting rooms.

Television producers — like the Dutch in El Salvador — are sending their cameramen not to elucidate the truth in all its breadth or pin down the threat hanging over their own civilization, but — as American networks did in Vietnam — to show in a

tendentious and unilateral manner that one must not support the governments which are on the losing side and stuffed with faults anyhow.

Why don't they also send cameramen to Nicaragua to shoot film of the Sandinista pressures against Indians? But they are not allowed to do so.

Easily resigned to the situation, they go to those countries which are accessible. There, they portray each error and slightest mishap as a scandal.

One must indeed feel sorry for these governments — and 40 of them have already been swallowed — which are destined to become victims of the communists: sapped by totalitarian cliques, confronted with terror, they have to tread the path of refined democracy or face accusations that it is they and not the terrorists who are to be blamed. These accusations are made by news media of the western world which, instead of acting like allies of those countries, is pushing them overboard into the water to let them drown.

Today, communism's triumphant advance appears with special clarity in Central America. After having yielded without resistance Cuba (and then, through Cuba's intervention, Angola and Ethiopia), after having supplied the Sandinistas with money and American moral support, one may be given permission to ask other countries — Honduras and Guatemala for example — to undertake honourable negotiations with cheaters.

Thus, row after row, American pacifists are rising and marshalling their troops once again, not feeling on their shoulders the weight of Indo-China which has been so stupidly lost: no interference please, above all, don't allow a single American adviser to



Solzhenitsyn: what if Moscow combines with Peking?

take a gun into the jungle! It is too early to intervene! And in this way they will hold back their government, prevent it from acting, and will retreat until, one day soon, the communists will reach the boundary of Texas.

And I can already hear their shouts: "Too late now. We cannot mobilize American youth any more. We must surrender!"

What a stroke of luck it would have been for France and Britain if there were television crews operating in 1918! Trotsky would certainly not have allowed them to

take films of his army. Their cameras would never have caught him busy crushing the inhabitants of Jaroslav or executing without trial workers mutinying in the Ijevsk and Volinsk factories.

Rather the film crews would have rushed to Denikine and Koltschak (two leading white army commanders during the Russian civil war), and have passionately would they have brought to evidence their least anti-democratic action. Their reporting would have promptly appeared Western consciences by showing them that it was neces-

ary not to help, but to betray, their war allies.

For years the communist regime has spared no effort to hide from our people (and the West) the true march of events in the years 1917-1922. It has succeeded completely. In the Soviet Union people know better the history of the early nineteenth century than the twentieth century.

This atmosphere of profound incomprehension surrounding our revolution explains the success in the United States of a film like *Reds*. Soon, Soviet film director Bondartshouk will exercise his talent on the same subject and transfer — as he has promised — the hesitations and defenceless crowd massed in front of the Winter Palace into an irresistible attack of 10,000 soldiers who were not there in 1917.

The West wrongly believes that the present-day Soviet Union is a continuation of ancient Russia, while in fact the communists are eroding and destroying it. Observers have failed to see the complete rupture with all religious, cultural and national traditions and the physical extermination of millions of those who embodied them. In the 1920s the name of Russia was pronounced only with contempt or hatred, and any positive nuance led to a prompt arrest. This was the time echoing with the words of a Soviet poet:

"We have shot Russia in its big bottom."

So that walking over its body, shall rise Communism-Messiah.

Since then, Russian culture has received a mortal wound. Will it ever rise again? As to the Russian people, as demonstrated by Western demographers, it has moved into a phase of biological degeneracy. Within a century, or perhaps even sooner, it will be diminished by one half and dissolve itself and almost vanish from the face of the earth. And this development appears irreversible.

In this respect how can one fail to admire the courage of a Carillo and a Berlinguer. They are "opposed" to the Soviet socialist model. As if Korea, China and Cuba had produced another model. There have been some 40 cases like that, and all of them apparently were not sufficiently Marxist.

Let the Eurocommunists sacrifice an additional 15 million people, build two more socialist models which future critics, alas, will find insufficiently

Marxist. (Is not the communist Manifesto clear enough about the nature of Marxism?) What is the difference of the two novel communist models? For the Italian communists the October coup d'état, 65 years later, has stopped being the guiding spirit. For the Spaniards, it still remains so.

This coup was carried out by gangsters who from the early Leninist days deprived our people of all their rights and later seized the peasants' land (though according to the revolutionary fable they gave land to the peasants). They have turned a wealthy country into a hungry and miserable country by exterminating tens of millions of peasants. If Carillo and Berlinguer were honest they would have long cursed the October coup and erased from their party the dishonest communist label.

I would like to tell western youth, aware of the vices of their countries' social systems but also of the true nature of communism, and who are honestly searching for a "third path", to build their future. I would like to tell them that I have found a number of failings in the Western system, above all of monopolies. This system has lost some of its features that characterize genuine and responsible freedom as it was originally conceived: the thirst for riches and pleasure has gone beyond any ethical measure. Western governments are mostly run not by those who have elected them but by occult forces. Senseless capitalists are feeding with their own hands the communist monster for their and the whole world's ruin.

In the future it will be our task to determine a third, fourth or perhaps fifth road and aim at strengthening spiritual foundations of society, disregarding unsavoury economic combinations.

Yet present-day dangers have become so pressing that we do not have enough time left to determine the new directions. The conquering mouth of the second road is wide open to tear off our head here and now. One has to find time to beat it back without yielding to fear.

Things will be even more dangerous if Soviet communists make peace with the Chinese. Warning lights can already be seen. If it came to pass, nothing would stand in their way.

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A word that still makes waves

This appears to be a good time to think about gunboat diplomacy. Thanks to television, gunboats seem unreal toys, even when people are being killed. The sort of ingenuously homely that comes to mind is a meditation about Palmerston's admirable use of the minimum force to achieve his ends, in contrast with the extravagant means of Bismarck, Napoleon III and the Tsar to achieve their ends, whether successful or unsuccessful.

However, it is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. It is daft to plot an article in one's mind before verifying one's references. The facts bear no relation to the proposed homily.

For one thing, in the classic example of gunboat diplomacy, when Don Pacifico had his house ransacked by an Athenian crowd, and Palmerston made his stirring but irrelevant declaration to the House of Commons, "Crisis Room! Sure it was not a gunboat that he sent but the entire British fleet to blockade Greece. It was an example of speaking softly (well, for nearly five hours) and carrying a bloody great stick.

It is not the image that the phrase gunboat diplomacy brings to mind today, of a

It is the authority of the White Ensign that subdues the riot, not the size of the gun

trim little ship of the Royal Navy with a single gun mounted forward, slipping into port or up the river and introducing instant calm among the turbulent masses, in the same way that a good collier introduces instant authority into a moor of sheep.

Gunboats have been doing that sort of thing for the Navy for a while. "Pit's minister," Lord Auckland, conveyed the message exactly in a letter of 1793, when he wrote: "The enemy were masters of the shore and entirely commanded it by their gunboats." And Nelson wrote in a dispatch: "The Spaniards having sent out a great number of Mortar Launches and armed Launches. Linguistically, 'a great many' seems too many gunboats.

No doubt when you are at sea with the real thing, the more gunboats on your side the better. But in the phrase gunboat diplomacy the fewer and smaller the better. It is the authority of the White Ensign that subdues the riot, not the size of the gun.

Although associated with Palmerston's chauvinistic and successful foreign policy, gunboat diplomacy came into the language late and across the Atlantic. The first example found by the Oxford English Dictionary comes from the proceedings of the US Naval Institute in 1927: "It has been said that the days of gunboat diplomacy in China are over." This suggests that the idea we have of gunboat diplomacy is all wrong. It is not the White Ensign, but the Stars and Stripes streaming down the Yangtze with John Wayne.

Subsequent citations in the OED tend to deplore gunboat diplomacy or congratulate us that it has been and properly disappeared. But the phrase at least does a useful job in the language, in spite of its mysterious origins.

Philip Howard

How all council tenants can become instant owners

by John Maples and Peter Luff

Seven million families live in council houses and most of them would rather not. Most tenants are deeply dissatisfied and, despite recent attempts to improve matters, totally immobile, as they discover when they try to move to another housing authority in another part of the country.

The system itself is inefficient, enormously expensive and results in poor use of the housing stock. One third of the population is condemned to remain permanent tenants of the State, denied the opportunity of owning their own homes.

When public rented housing was first provided in this country it fulfilled a clear social need; now, however, it has degenerated into a highly inefficient nationalized industry. The time has come for denationalization.

Council housing finance has long been an area of political controversy, and that controversy shows no sign of abating now. Michael Heseltine's policy of selling at a 50 per cent discount has been greeted enthusiastically by those who stand to gain, but has also met considerable political opposition. The Labour Party is ready to stop further sales, and has suggested it will freeze rents for at least a year if it is returned to power. So it is that a basic social need has become a political football.

One prominent Conservative learnt for himself that public involvement in the provision of housing needed to be put on a more rational basis. As Environment Sec-

retary, Peter Walker sold council houses for a 30 per cent discount and launched a massive publicity campaign.

The very low percentage of the stock actually sold came as a disappointment to him, so in 1975 he worked out an alternative policy that could liberate the tenants of the State and bring substantial financial benefits to the whole population. This alternative policy should be implemented without delay.

On a specified day the full ownership of all council houses should be transferred to their existing tenants. They would not be given away, but rather the rent payments would now be treated as mortgage payments. Those who have paid council rents for 30 years or more would be told that they now owned their houses outright and that no further payments would be due. The rest would be told that they will have to pay their "rent" at its present level until they have paid rent for a total of 30 years. Those who had been council tenants for, say, 10 years, would therefore have to pay for a further 20 years. The payments due would be capitalised as a mortgage which would have to be repaid if the house were sold.

This fast, massive and irreversible transfer to private ownership would bring with it enormous social and economic benefits. Britain would no longer be a two-nation country, divided between those who own their own homes and those who do not. Overnight almost nine

out of ten families would own their own homes. The ugly social tensions between council and private estates would disappear. The tenants themselves would be freed from petty regulations and restrictions and would be able to take a far greater interest in their homes. The dream of building a property-owning democracy would be fulfilled overnight. A more even distribution of wealth would mean a giant step towards equality of opportunity. A real social revolution would take place.

The economic advantages are rather more surprising. To understand them we need to look at the details of the way this new idea would work.

The new owners would be responsible for repairs and maintenance. Much of this they would be able to do themselves more quickly and more cheaply than local authorities, whose maintenance costs have doubled in real terms over the last ten years. Naturally, special arrangements will have to be made for major maintenance of large multi-unit and high-rise developments. Similarly those who become the owners of sub-standard property should receive an undertaking that the local authority will bring the property up to standard; we suggest, however, that the owner should be offered a cash grant to do the work himself.

Housing bureaucracies will

be wound up, so management costs — £632m in 1980 — will cease altogether. The only exception will be the provision of a few items such as lifts and caretakers, but there is no reason why the new owners should not take over this responsibility, for which they would be charged correspondingly lower mortgage payments. Where necessary, assistance and advice should be given in the setting-up of co-operative management schemes. It is imperative that the expensive administration of council housing should be brought to an end. In the last 10 years management costs have risen even faster in real terms than maintenance — some two and half times. As

mortgages will still have to be collected we suggest handing this over to the private sector and allowing these contractors a small commission for their services.

Of course those who cannot afford their housing payments should continue to receive the equivalent of rent rebates and supplementary benefit. As more and more of the population own their own homes outright, this obligation will diminish.

Local authorities will be relieved of a great burden of work, and will be able to devote their attention to those in genuine need. They should be able to provide a far better service to the most unfortunate members of our society.

Supplementary Benefit expenditure, derived from a recent estimate by the Supplementary Benefit Commission. It also allows for all the continuing obligations we have described, and for the fact that 8 per cent of tenants will own their homes outright.

So a substantial deficit becomes a healthy surplus, with total savings of more than £1,000m in 1980 prices. Still more public money will be saved because local authorities will stop building houses. In fact the total saving to the public purse will be over £2,500m, again at 1980 prices. This is the equivalent of over 3p off income tax, or a reduction in VAT to about 3 per cent.

Michael Heseltine's present policy is enjoying only a limited success — by the end of the present term of this government he will be lucky to have sold more than 10 per cent of the stock. He knows that the next 10 per cent will be far harder to sell. On the other hand his proposals will have made good about the largest redistribution of wealth this country has ever seen — from the state to the individual. No future government could reverse this change. Surely this is political prize worth grasping.

Peter Luff is personal assistant to Edward Heath and John Maples is a barrister.

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	1980	After Transfer
Rent/Mortgage Payments	2,238	2,142
Rent Rebates	628	728
Supplementary Benefits	473	419
Management	452	53
Maintenance	71	23
Other Costs	40	0
Collection Costs	0	108
Contribution to Debt Service & New Construction	-553	+348

A council estate in South Wales: overnight, rents could turn into mortgage payments and pride in ownership lead to improvements — at no cost to the public

Where Orwell would have been down and in

What would George Orwell, patriot and libertarian, have made of our Falklands predicament? Professor Bernard Crick, whose monumental biography of Orwell appears in paperback at the end of the month, has indicated that he would not have been numbered among the pacifist Left.

Orwell's abhorrence of totalitarianism and repression of the Argentine variety may be taken for granted, Crick feels. "Although he was anti-imperialist he would not have been a handover man in this conflict. Orwell's prime concern would have been to protect the real interest of the islanders — to achieve a solution by which they could live decently under some form of civil government".

In a timely contribution to the present crisis, Penguin are also reissuing three Orwell essays commissioned in 1940 as part of an effort to define left-wing attitudes to the Second World War. Crick, who has written a new introduction to *The Lion and the Unicorn*, told PHS that the essays sum up the thinking of the Tribune Old Left — a perspective far removed from that of Bennites.

Bully laughs

Some shallower insights into the Argentine national character than those we had from V. S.

Naipaul may be drawn from the jokes that tell about themselves. "The Brazilians call us the French of the Americas", is one favourite saying. In fact the Argentine character derives from two main racial constituents — colonial Spanish and immigrant southern Italians.

One story goes that an Argentine ambassador in Washington was paying his respects to a recently elected American president, who amiably confessed his uncertainty whether Argentina was on the left or the right of the map. "Just keep going south, Mr President", the ambassador said, "and the first white nation you come to is us."

"Italians are impossible and they only eat spaghetti", the Argentines say. "Argentines are what you get when you feed Italians on good red meat."

Finally two Argentines were watching Argentina play Italy in Rome. "Have you noticed an incredible thing?" one Argentine asked the other. "All the Italian players have Argentine names."

U-phemisms

I have been politely but devastatingly reproved for my impudent suggestion that the upper classes behave improperly by flaunting invitation cards on their mantelpieces. Alice Hall writes from Herefordshire to tell me that the upper classes stick their invitations into the frames of the looking glasses above their chimneys. The upper classes she says, drawing on Mifford, do not have mirrors or mantelpieces.

THE TIMES DIARY



In Madrid on May 20 Sotheby's will be selling some rather tasteful items — six heads of slaughtered bulls, and a fragment of a jacket in which a matador was gored to death in 1894. There is also the ominously named and now slightly tattered suit of lights which belonged to

Moreover, she adds, the upper classes do not care. It is only the middle classes, having read Dehret's *Etiquette*, who take to hiding their invitations. As for herself, she says, she is so non-U and middle class that her invitations mostly come by telephone.

The obituary of Cardinal Cody in the Catholic Herald said: "The nevertheless commanded enormous support from the Middle American Roman Catholic congregation and more especially from the black community, who recognized the great efforts he had made on their behalf, particularly in the desecration of Catholic schools."

Madman theory

Vitaly Kobish, the Soviet Union's senior press representative at the United Nations in New York, says he seriously believes Americans are mad. Kobish complains in the

the late Antonio Bienvenida, who met his unlamented match in "the bullfight of the century" at Jaen in June 1971.

Among other curiosities to be auctioned in the Spanish capital on the feast of San Isidro, the height of the bullfighting season, is a picture of a white bull tossing a bullfighter which Sotheby's, capturing the spirit of the thing, describe as "somewhat gruesome".

Soviet press that it now costs him 15 dollars to park his car in New York, and the rent of his apartment has gone through the roof.

It is a familiar theme for Kobish. When he was in London as correspondent for *Izvestia* between 1968 and 1971 he moaned that the rent for his flat in St. John's Wood Park was as much too high, and spent considerable time looking for something cheaper which would satisfy him — without success.

Victory for women

My mention in February of a House of Commons reunion of the wartime Y service brought an embarrassing number of secret servicemen out of the woodwork. They had not been invited to the affair which was for top brass only. It also brought one of those not infrequent accusations of sexism from a reader who felt that I had implied that Y's work of intercepting and decoding

enemy messages had been a male preserve. Discreetly, therefore, I now pass the intelligence that the first reunion of the WRNS Y service is to be at the Victory Services Club on June 5. At least 60 women intercept telegraphists are expected to attend.

Impromptu

At a dinner last week for Dirk Mudge, chairman of the Namibian council of ministers, the burly Afrikaner was continually prompted, while speaking, by Billy Marais, his public relations man. It happened so frequently that Nicholas Winterston, the MP who was presiding, had to ask Marais to desist.

Mudge, whose Democratic Turnhalle Alliance must be the world's only party taking its name from a drill hall, tried hard to put over a sincere line about one nation and non-racism, while explaining how much he welcomed South African military assistance.

Mudge, who is determined never to accept United Nations supervision of an election in Namibia, says the South Africans would sell him down the river if it helped them get the Cubans out of Angola. His plea was that Britain and the US should try to stop the Russians, Cubans and East German gang hold of southern Africa, and help save his moderate government.

Among those attending, Terry Duffy, the president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, was quite won over by Mudge's remarks, and promised to support him in the TUC international committee.



The loss of HMS Sheffield struck a chord of sympathy in Warsaw. A bunch of white carnations with a ribbon and an immaculately lettered placard bearing the ship's name appeared outside the British embassy there last week.

Foot and Francois

Michael Foot attended the launch last night of Denis MacShane's biography of Francois Mitterrand, published speedily by Quartet Books to coincide with the anniversary of the durable French socialist's election victory. MacShane thinks Foot should

pick up a tip or two from his French counterpart's career. "The two men have a lot in common", MacShane tells me. "They are both bibliophiles. Mitterrand has written 10 books himself, which may be a lot easier to learn from Mitterrand are that you have to stand by your political principles, but that you must keep your party as broadly based as possible."

MacShane, a former president of the National Union of Journalists who now works as a researcher for the International Metalworkers' Federation. In Geneva, says the British Labour Party is the most insular socialist organization in the world. He says he has written his book "to make French politics accessible to the British Left". I am sure Michael Foot will read it, but that few of his followers will.

It was called the Bun and Milk Club when it became a temperance club where, although snooker and cards were allowed, all alcohol was banned. It fell into disuse at the end of the 1930s. It has now been converted into flats by a local housing association, and reopened by the mayor of Barnsley, Councillor Jack Wake, who delivered milk to the club as a boy.

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From Mr R. R. Darlington
Sir, Golfers at Aberdovey can
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watch their balls being removed
from the fairways and carried off
to the less accessible areas of the
Snowdonia National Park.
Yours etc.,
R. R. DARLINGTON,
Uwchlan,
Aberdovey,
Gwynedd.
May 8.

**COURT...
CIRCULAR**

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. J. Melrose
and Miss L. Woodcock
The engagement is announced
between Andrew, elder son of Mr

Saturday, May 1, at St. Thomas Church, St. Helier, Jersey, between Mr Richard Christopher Miles, son of Mr Eric Miles and of Mrs Cynthia Miles, and Miss Sarah Dawson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Dawson. Father, J. M. Chuffert, OMI, officiated, assisted by the Rev A. Spence.

...the usual fringe benefits
...paid towards a self-employed
...5% of salary.

SOLICITOR

Publications is 26th May 1982

Luncheons battery in Burma in 1942. Colonel M. A. Khawaja, Army Attache, and Colonel C. A. H. M. Noble, chairman of the Indian Divisions' Academy of Arts, held Burlington House last night. Hugh Casson, PRA, was in the chair and the other speakers

Service luncheon

3rd Indian Light Anti-Aircraft Battery
Officers of 3rd Indian Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, now 14th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Pakistan Artillery, held a luncheon yesterday.

Dinners

Royal Academy of Arts
The Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, was a speaker at the annual dinner of the Royal Cambridge University Disraeli Society. The annual dinner of the Cambridge University Disraeli Society commemorating the death of Benjamin Disraeli, Earl Beaconsfield, was held at the

GROUP requires assistance from the State Department, the House and the wide range of U.S. and overseas agencies, activities including construction, project management, engineering, mining, exploration and drilling:

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Sir Edgar Beck, 71; Mr Irvin Berlin, 94; Sir John Compton, 82; Mr Salvador Dali, 88; Mr Percy Faulkner, 75; Ernest Harrison, 56; Professor

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**£14,062 for
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ice buckets**

Chelsea Arts Club on Saturday. Mr. Giles Kavanagh, St. John's College, was in the chair and Paul Serfaty, Trinity College,

Supper

HM Government
Sir Michael Palliser was here yesterday at a supper party held at the Savoy Hotel in honour of Dr Henry Kissinger after a visit to the Savoy Theatre.

CHRIST CHURCH: Assistant Curator of pictures and lectureship Woodall BA (York), MA (London). Fell exhibitions APA (infield); Linton, New F Wright.

Newcastle:
Grant
 Science and Engineering Research

surprising choice to spearhead the attempt to drive Gilbert and Sullivan kicking and screaming into the twentieth century. He was preferred to other possi-

The part of POON BAN, the Lord High Executioner, being taken by a man who not only has never sung

OBITUARY
COL WILLIAM NASH
Advocate of profit sharing
in industry

during the whole of the First World War, and continued until he went on to the reserve in 1928 with the honorary rank of major.

Major-General Charles George Phillips, CR, DSO, MC, who died in Nairobi on May 11 aged 52, had wide experience of African colonial troops. Educated at Rugby, and MC, he was in the 1st Buffs in France in World War II, he was awarded to his DSO when commanding the Nampos, New Guinea, expedition. From command of 146 Infantry Brigade in Iceland, he became in 1945 Commander of the 1st Canadian and then

designer, has died in Venice at the age of 80, while participating at a peace movement meeting. Picart le Doux was the creator of more than 500 designs for

and dancing, wouldn't take too long to do — or the motor bike riding. Yes, I do one or two numbers on a motor bike, Honda, of course. I've got Grant Ferguson, the little-known dancer, to be played by Cedric Webber, the little-known dancing brother of mine and Andrew.

the show. We've also worked in a lot of our normal act, which of course will be new to London. I think Pollock is only removing their ears. The show will open Monday, if the swimming pool is ready.

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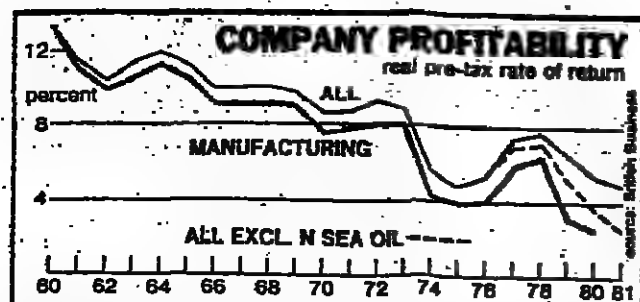
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The last 20 years have witnessed a steady decline in the profitability of British companies outside the relatively prosperous North Sea oil sector. New official figures show that the real pre-tax rate of return on assets for companies not involved in North Sea activities fell to 2.5 per cent in 1981 from 3.5 per cent in 1980. Manufacturing companies fared even worse, with an estimated real rate of return last year of 1.5 to 2 per cent from 2.5 per cent in 1980.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 590.5, up 7.2
FT 100 89.01, up 0.63
FT Allshare 338.53, up 3.47
Bargains 18,535
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index: 7,564.59, up 5.42
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index:
1,377.55 up 2.58

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
STERLING \$1.8355, up 1 cent
Index 90.5, up 0.5
DM 4.25
Fr F 10.9400
Yen 428.00

INTEREST RATES

Base rates 13%
3-month interbank 13% 1/8
Euro-currency rates
3-month dollar 14% 1/4-14%
3-month DM 8% 1/4-8%
3-month Fr F 2% 1/4-2% 1/4

DOLLAR
Index 111.8, up 0.1
DM 2.2872, down pts
GOLD
\$329.75, down \$4.50

Argyll poised for takeover

Shares of Mr James Gulliver's Argyll Foods were suspended yesterday, sparking off speculation that the group is poised to make a substantial acquisition. At Friday's closing price of 103p, the food manufacturer and retailer has a market capitalization around £42m. Earlier this year Argyll bought 67 Pricerite discount stores from B&A Stores for \$3m. Since there was no share suspension, then any acquisition at this time is likely to be a large one. Allied Suppliers Occidental, is believed to be a prime target for Argyll.

Lacey quits Simplicity post

Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey, former chairman and chief executive of NCC Energy, has resigned as chairman and chief executive officer of the Simplicity Pattern group of the United States. NCC, now run by Cook International Inc, has sold its 20 per cent stake in Simplicity with which he once planned to merge NCC in a £50m deal.

£18.4m for steel towns

The European Commission is to make £18.4m available for new programmes in areas hit by closures of British steel works. Payment will be made in conjunction with £29.4m from national resources. The programme, designed to run for five years, will concentrate on Strathclyde, Cleveland, Clywd, South Glamorgan, West Glamorgan, Gwent and Corby where more than 58,000 jobs have been lost since 1975.

Export credits compromise

The United States is prepared to accept the compromise agreement on the export credits worked out in Paris last week. Mr Donald Regan, United States treasury secretary, said in Paris yesterday. Mr Regan said that the compromise proposals, which involve a small increase in interest rates were not perfect but would be approved by the United States.

THE SEVENTH Edition of Robert Willott's Current Accounting Law and Practice is published this week. The comprehensive directory of UK laws and accounting standards, the volume has been delayed to coincide with the full introduction of the 1981 Companies Act. This is now expected in a few weeks.

The Triumph Acclaim is British the European Commission has ruled. British Leyland asked the EEC for an opinion after the Italian Motor trade association claimed it was Japanese.

Alfa Romeo, Italy's second largest car company, yesterday laid off 11,000 workers for 10 working days. The company which recently agreed with unions a ceiling of 50 days temporary suspension during 1982, blamed falling demand.

COMPANIES

BRITISH Home Stores staged a recovery in the second half to end the year with profits up from £39.7m to £42.6m before tax.

LEADING jobber Akroyd & Smithers pushed up first half profits from £5.9m to £10.6m before tax on the back of falling interest rates and rising markets.

LAUNDRY and textile equipment manufacturer Neil & Spencer is to press ahead with its £500,000 rights issue despite the board's admission that it will not meet the profit forecasts in its rights issue circular.

ROBERT MAXWELL's British Printing and Communication Corporation is urgently considering whether a higher bid for Lonsdale Universal would be justified after the Lonsdale board said the 60p a share offer from John Menzies gave a full valuation of the business. BPCC holds a 10.25 per cent stake in Lonsdale. Page 16
Tysons, Liverpool-based construction engineers, raised pretax profits from £155,000 to £147,8m. Sales were also up at £27,326m against £21,69m and earnings per share were 29.05p against 7.64p last time. Dividends have been held at the same level as last year at 3p gross per share. Page 16

PRICE CHANGES

Akroyd & Smithers 205, up 12
British Home Stores 170, up 9
Hawker Siddeley 324, up 4
Reed Int 304, up 10
Grand Met 221, up 4
United Scientific 388, up 20

Cable & Wireless 275, up 11
Raner Oil 325, up 10
Churchbury Est 625, down 5
Trident TV A 644, down 20
Rustenburg 168, down 6
Crouch Group 102, down 6

Brittan urges rethink on public services

By Frances Williams

Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has hinted at a shake-up of public services which would involve a major expansion of private provisions.

In a keynote speech reviewing the Government's three years in office, he attacked the view that public services should increase in line with national wealth.

He told the Institute in Fiscal Studies in London: "The real question is how much the State can afford to provide, free, and still leave the individual citizen with the incentive and ability on top of that... to provide for his own old age, his own health and his own children's education, directly."

Mr Brittan pointed out that the three big social programmes — social security, health and personal social services, and education — will cost £58,000m in 1982-83, almost half the total public spending. But he said there was no "right" level of spending.

Though some minimal level of services had to be provided by the State, he said "I believe we have to begin to rethink both the way the basic services are financed and delivered and the way that people choose, and government provides, services above the basic level."

Mr Brittan said that expectation of continuous improvements in public services was one of the biggest single reasons why governments now faced in the 1980s economic climate of the 1980s and beyond. He spoke pessimistically of being able to maintain, "and so far as possible improve on a fair basis," the services needed.

Mr Brittan said serious thought should be given to changing the basis of which public services are provided.



Brittan: A whole range of possibilities

He said: "People want and expect increased choice and increased flexibility and monolithic state-run services do not provide this."

An answer may be to create greater variety and flexibility in provision, financing and delivery systems, he suggested.

He said: "There may be scope for a whole range of different possibilities, with public and private facilities co-existing and supplementing other, together with an increased reliance on private insurance, vouchers and the like." Legislation would be needed to ensure minimum standards.

Mr Brittan did not elaborate on these possibilities. But ministers are now studying methods of financing the health service and the idea of

education vouchers has strong support within sections of the Conservative Party.

Mr Brittan may also be preparing the ground among his Cabinet colleagues for a tough line on public spending in his present round of departmental discussions before decisions in the autumn on spending ahead.

Some ministers may want to argue that economic recovery justified commensurate improvement in services.

On the economy Mr Brittan, while acknowledging that the Government had failed to achieve its objectives of cutting the burden of taxation and public spending, said its firm strategy was beginning to pay off. It was inconceivable, he added, that ministers would wish to change it.

Trade balance shows a £300m turnaround

By Frances Williams

Britain's balance of overseas trade improved by more than £300m in February, mounting up a surplus of £174m, a £324m deficit the previous month. Exports were up by 4 per cent from the low January figure while imports dropped by 3 per cent.

The visible trade such as financial services and shipping, brought the surplus on the current account to £654m, nearly twice the £348 recorded in January.

The turnaround in the visible balance resulted from improvements in both oil and non-oil trade. The surplus on oil trade rose to £270m in February from £168m in January, while the deficit on non-oil trade, a huge £300m in January, narrowed to £36m.

But the relatively encouraging February figures disguise a more worrying suggestion. In the three months to February the oil trade surplus jumped to £877m from £570m in the previous three months, with oil exports running at a record level of £2,500m. But this has concealed a deterioration in non-oil trade. After big surpluses in the second half of 1980 and the beginning of 1981 non-oil trade has plunged into deficit. In the latest three months the deficit has risen to £480m to £295m in the three previous months.

Excluding oil and erratic items such as ships, oil rigs, aircraft and precious stones, the volume of exports rose by 2.5 per cent in the month to February, a little higher than in the same month a year

earlier but well below the levels of last autumn.

Exports overall showed a 5.5 per cent fall in the latest three month period from three months earlier. Though changes in the system of recording exports may have distorted the figures last year, Department of Trade officials comment that "the recent trend in the volume of exports was, at best, flat."

UK TRADE

Trade figures seasonally adjusted and corrected on a balance of payments basis, for known recording errors.

	Exports	Imports	Balance
1980	2460	4097	-1637
1981	2185	4726	-2541
1982	2185	4726	-2541
1983	2185	4726	-2541
1984	2185	4726	-2541
1985	2185	4726	-2541
1986	2185	4726	-2541
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2025	2185	4726	-2541
2026	2185	4726	-2541
2027	2185	4726	-2541
2028	2185	4726	-2541
2029	2185	4726	-2541
2030	2185	4726	-2541

This is disappointing news for the Government which is relying on higher exports to contribute to economic recovery this year.

Imports fell by 2.5 per cent in volume terms between January and February, mainly because of a drop in imports of manufactures. Over the three months to February imports were down by 6 per cent from the previous three months after their big surge in mid-1981, but remain nearly 20 per cent above their levels early last year.

A DROP in beer production at the Dar es Salaam brewery is costing Tanzania 2.5m shillings (£150,600) a day in lost tax revenues.

Uncertainty over Saudi oil output

By Jonathan Davis

Energy Correspondent

There was renewed uncertainty yesterday about the exact level of oil production in Saudi Arabia, the largest producer in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Oil Minister, denied that his country's output had slipped to 5.5 million barrels a day from its official production ceiling of 7 million barrels a day.

Shaikh Yamani refused to say what Saudi Arabia's production is, but according to industry sources, it is running at about 6.5 million barrels a day.

Meanwhile, the upward trend in spot prices is certain to be taken by Opec ministers as evidence that their attempts to resist price reductions by concerted production cuts are paying off.

The ministers are scheduled to meet next week in Quito, Ecuador for a regular six monthly price-fixing meeting and market traders appear to be convinced that the official Opec reference price of \$34 a barrel will now be held for the rest of this year.

Arab light crude was being quoted on the spot market yesterday in a range of \$32.85 to \$33.25 a barrel, about \$4 a barrel higher than the low point reached in March. Cargoes of North Sea oil were available at about \$34.70 a barrel, against an official term price of \$31 a barrel.

Oil companies who originally doubted Opec's ability to resist market pressures for price cuts now acknowledge that the oil producers may have done just enough to hold prices through to the autumn when demand is expected to revive.

Cut in US interest rates 'no cure-all'

From David Blake

Paris, May 10
America's high interest rates dominated talks of the leading industrial finance ministers at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development here today.

Mr Donald Regan, United States Treasury Secretary, accepted the need for action to cut the budget deficit and to bring down American interest rates. But warned the other ministers that such action was "no panacea" for the world's economic problems.

The meeting, which finishes tomorrow is the first in a round of economic talks that culminate with the world economic summit at Versailles in early June. Today's discussions made it plain that there are now three conflicting views of what needs to be done to solve the problems of recession and inflation.

Mr Regan's statement was designed to remind other countries that they had to play a part in bringing down interest rates throughout the world. The United States Administration says that other countries have to cut their budget deficit as well as America. Leading European nations think that the problem lies firmly in the United States, which they blame for high interest rates throughout the world.

Many smaller countries and the OECD secretariat want to see a "differentiated approach" under which the United States would cut its deficit but some other countries would boost demand.

Very little concrete progress in bringing these points of view together was achieved. Mr Regan said he had been impressed by the number of countries wanting action to reduce the United States deficit.

It is clear that the United States is seeking both to head off European criticism of high interest rates and to put pressure on Congress at home.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor, was one of the milder speakers on the problem, stressing the need for action but congratulating the United States on its progress in reducing inflation.

Sir Geoffrey also gave a strong warning to Japan of the need for it to open up its markets and to reduce its dependence on exports.

Japan's trade surplus is emerging as a second major theme of international concern.

A communiqué is expected to be issued tomorrow, which will seek to emphasize that there is broad agreement on the need for sustainable economic growth.

Business Editor

Shares remain vulnerable

The stock market is never very good at second-guessing the course of politics or wars. At the moment, markets are betting on a successful outcome in the South Atlantic and the consequent electoral advantage for Mrs Thatcher.

The economic fundamentals, lower inflation, control over the borrowing requirement and money supply, improved last month. Sterling has held up well, dollar rates are set to fall, jobbers are short of stock, institutional cash is building up and long-term gilt yield due to decline.

Yet much of the recent good news has probably been discounted. Sell in May and go away" is still one of the stock market's truer saws as summer counter-attractions loom.

At present levels, shares are vulnerable to a sizeable decline until the autumn. First, however, the markets immediate course will be determined not by the fundamentals, but by events in the Falklands. There are signs of patriotic over-optimism in the City. That could change dramatically should there be an invasion.

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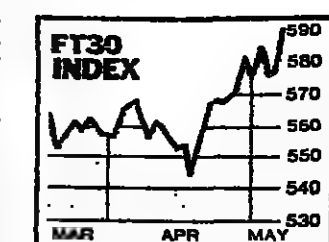
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There is a disturbing dimension to the variety of views regulators can apparently take about a company. It is of course true that companies, like individuals, may be better suited to some things than others.

Trident and its shareholders know they were taking a chance, but they can be excused for questioning regulatory fickleness and for resenting the opprobrium that inevitably attaches to a company after such a decision.



insurance, or education vouchers are immense. In so far as Mr Brittan gives any specifics it is to suggest that the state might provide basic services, as in hospital care, and that the private system can provide the extras, cosmetic surgery for example.

It is a suggestion of quite horrendous implications for education and social security just as for medicine. But the point Mr Brittan makes is really that there is now no alternative to such a radical rethink if the people are to have anything left in their post-tax income.

Gaming Deeper issues

Trident's gamble on replacing lost television income with gaming revenue from the Playboy clubs seems to have failed. But the decision of the South Westminster magistrates raises more issues than the future of Trident.

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Pay gloom for state industry chiefs

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Nationalized industry chairman, whose relationship with the Government has become increasingly strained over recent months, are assigning themselves an across-the-board salary increase this year of no more than 6 per cent.

There is now a widespread belief in the boardrooms of state corporations that the Government will once again hold down public sector salaries because of poor economic conditions.

Salaries are understood to be among the items for discussion at meeting on Friday of the Nationalized Industry Chairman's Group and at subsequent discussions with senior civil servants, but there appears to be little optimism that the gap between state chairmen's

pay and that of leading private sector industry chiefs will be narrowed.

Successful governments have depressed salary increases in the public sector because of formal or informal incomes policies with the result that few nationalized industry chairmen were paid more than £50,000 last year compared with salaries well in excess of £100,000 paid to private sector company directors.

Last year, few state chairmen received more than a 7 per cent rise, an exception being Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, whose salary rose by 25 per cent to £60,000.

The highest paid in Mr Peter Sheldbourne, chairman of the British National Oil

Corporation, who received £62,600 last year, but more typical are Sir Derek Ezra at the National Coal Board and Sir Denis Rooke of British Gas, who were both paid £51,360.

Salaries apart, a main part of the nationalized industry chairmen's attention is devoted to the thorny issue of increasing government interference in the running of the corporations.

New government attempts to monitor the industries with the setting up of the Public Enterprise Analytic Unit — part of the Prime Minister's drive to make state companies more efficient — are seen by many state boards as the creation of yet another layer of government intrusion.

Headache for Whitehall headquarters Top job at BL still unfilled

By Edward Townsend

Department of Industry officials have been drawing up a short list of candidates for the BL chairmanship when Sir Michael Edwards' quits at the end of the year.

It is understood that the list has not been the subject of widespread consultation and various options are still being studied.

Concern has been expressed within Whitehall about delays in finding a successor to Sir Michael, who is regarded as a difficult man to replace. In three years he has made a considerable impact on the company and, developed what many observers consider to be a notable style of leadership, particularly in industrial relations matters.

The BL job, which last year carried a salary of £95,500, is one of a number of top posts in the state sector that are proving a headache for Whitehall headhunters. Mr Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, left last week without a successor being announced and in July, Sir Derek Ezra will leave the National Coal Board, with a replacement yet announced.

There is also the problem of finding a new chairman



for the British Steel Corporation when Mr Ian MacGregor's contract expires in June 1983.

The slimming down and decentralizing of BL has left four main groups — Cars, Unipart, Leyland and Land Rover — each with its own management team, and it is conceivable that these could be reestablished as separate companies.

The attraction of such a move is that it would isolate the much troubled Leyland commercial vehicle operation, badly hit last year by the recession in the truck market.

Another advantage is that the head of the holding company could be a non-

THE NEW

EXPANDED

QUEENS MOAT HOUSES

HOTELS GROUP

- In the most significant transaction in the history of Queens Moat Houses P.L.C. the Group have doubled in size to 50 operating units with the recent acquisition of 26 hotels from Grand Metropolitan.
- Pre-tax profits for the enlarged Group for 1982 have been forecast at not less than £2.5 million against £1.028 million for 1981. Earnings per share are expected to increase to 2.83p from 2.54p.
- A 10% dividend increase is forecast for 1982 following the 40% improvement in 1981.
- The majority of the hotels acquired are located in commercial centres and have extensive conference facilities. They therefore dovetail neatly with the existing Queens Moat hotels and extend the

Group's policy of concentrating on the needs of the businessman.

- The cost of the additional 1,915 bedrooms acquired, averages £15,600 per bedroom. This compares very favourably with current costs of building new hotels, which are considerably in excess of this figure.
- Queens Moat Houses are now the UK's largest quoted group specialising in commercial provincial hotels.

For a copy of the 198

MARKET SUMMARY

A shortage of high-quality stocks

Hopes that Wall Street would continue to lead international interest rates down led London markets rising yesterday. (Sally White)

The Bank of England held London interest rates but markets expect the intervention to halt on the full hands, faded as a threat in sterling. Confidence in an acceptable diplomatic solution stayed high.

The FT 30 index moved to within a few points of its all-time high in the afternoon, before profit-taking brought it back to close at 590.5 up 2. It had touched 594, just 3 points below last May's all-time record.

High institutional liquidity — Messel's forecast a May inflow of £1,300m to £1,400m plus £200m in £300m left from April — is supporting the market.

Another important factor is that the steady interest of institutions in buying high quality stocks is exacerbating the problems being faced by the jobbers. They are short of quality stocks, because there are no sellers in size around, nor have there been for some months.

Defence stocks are a sector where the market is short. DEC went through £9 before it closed at 892, up 5p. Plessey closed at 428p, up 12p. Ferranti rose 730p up 4p at 242p. British Aerospace was a very active share, rising to 216p, up 3p. United Scientific closed at 388p, up 30p.

Stocks closed with long-dated gilts up 1/2 of a point, medium-term 1/2 higher and short-term 1/2. On the trade figures they gained a further 1/2 in late trading.

All markets reported a low level of business, with brokers complaining that the uncertainty of the last few weeks had kept most of the customers away.

Two lines reported were one of 670,000 Anglia TV, which went fast, leaving the shares unchanged at 132p. A line of half a million Barrat went a couple of pence below the market price, leaving them at 290p.

Trident TV was slashed by the jobbers on the loss of the application for a casino licence for the Playboy Club. The shares dropped from 84p to 68p, and down a further 4p in after hours trading.

Akroyd's figures reflected the earlier high turnover this year in the gilt market. The pre-tax was £10.6m against £7.6m. The shares rose 12p to 205p. The dividend is up, to 4p against 3.5p.

British Home Stores figures with profits up 7 per cent, took the shares to 1.6p, up 15p.

Hopes of lower interest rates failed to help Lloyds Bank, still bedeviled by its Argentinean interests — it stayed at 408p. But Barclays were up 5p at 416p.

Among the sharpest rises was King & Shaxson, up 6p at 90p, and Smith & Aubyn, up 10p at 188p.

Prestige Group, manufacturers of household goods, were in demand on forecasts of figures up from £6.6m to £7.5m. That is on a price earnings ratio of 9 and a yield of 5 1/2 per cent. The shares rose 5p to 188p.

Up at 37p the discount houses, hoping to benefit from the interest rate cuts. First Castle was up 5p at 61p ahead of figures.

The gold shares suffered heavily from the decline in the gold price and there were falls of 50 cents to a dollar. In the sterling unit, the Western Gold Shares were down £1.16 to £17.516. Western Deep dropped 50p to £11, and Blyvoors were down 15p at 436p.

Oil was firmer, with Ultramar up 10p at 44p ahead of the figures. Huxley Oil gained 15p at 295p. Shell was just 2p higher at 420p.

Worries about the high Street price war left Tesco at 56p and Sainsbury at 610p, with Kwiksave down 4p at 228p.

Brewers were a good market, with Grand Met at 221p, up 4p. Higher bid hopes took Anderson Strathclyde up 4p to 142p. The Charter Consolidated bid is worth around 135p.

Read International jumped 10p to 304p on figures due in early June. Courtauld was a further 5p higher at 95p ahead of figures, and Cable & Wireless were up 11p at 275p ahead of its results.

Two small shares which rose in speculative dealing were handbag manufacturers Lancia up 14p at 50p, and shoemakers Lambert Howarth, up 12p at 77p. Both received weekend newspaper mentions.

Ash & Lacey, metal fabricators, rose by 18p to 315p on the chairman's statement that 1982 has started well, and the prospects for the first half are good.

Harris Queensway rose 4p to 182p, following on the recent good figures.

The pound strengthened further in quiet trading on foreign exchanges yesterday. Its overall value, as measured by the effective exchange rate, rose 0.5 to 90.5, the best it has been since the British fleet left for the Falklands more than a month ago. In dollar terms, the pound finished 1 cent higher at 1.8355.

Dealers said the Falklands issue continued to overhang the market, making for very cautious trading. However, sterling, like most other leading European currencies,

benefited from a dollar that was reflecting softer Euro-dollar rates on the possibility of a reduction in United States prime rates in the next week or so.

German marks rose from 2.340 to 2.895 against the dollar, while French francs headed from 5.9750 to 5.9615. Closing levels were below the best though. Swiss francs dipped from 1.8910 to 1.9005 in the wake of cuts in Swiss time deposit rates.

The Japanese yen declined from 232.80 to 233.60 in dollar terms.

London discount market, money conditions had been expected to be tight and the shortage eventually proved larger than had been anticipated. The Bank of England initially forecast £550m, amended this to around £450m at lunchtime, then uprated to £500m in the afternoon.

In its lunchtime open market operations, the Bank was able to buy only £6m of bills as it rejected proffered offers by the houses at lower rates. These and two bank bills the authorities took at 13 per cent. In the afternoon, the houses offered their paper at rates that allowed the authorities to take in a further £46m of bills across the day to four at already established rates.

Interbank opened at 12 1/2 to 13 per cent but went up to 13 1/2 to 14 per cent. On the shortage forecast by the Bank of England, by lunchtime, it was up to 15 to 16 per cent, but came off to finish in the area of 13 to 14 per cent.

Eurodollar deposits opened with a flurry, but became quiet. Fed funds were called 14 1/2 per cent, much as expected, and the market moved to await New York response to fresh pessimism by Henry Kaufman on the score of the prospective federal deficit.

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BHS makes second-half recovery

British Home Stores, where former ICI chief Sir Maurice Hodgson is to become chairman, recovered from its dismal first half when profits fell by £3m to £7.6m to finish the year to April 3 showing a 7 per cent gain to £42.6m pretax.

The figures were well above outside estimates and the shares closed 15p higher at 176p. The final dividend has been raised by nearly a tenth to leave the total up from 6.43 gross to 6.79p.

The gloomy trends of the first half — lower gross margins, falling volume and market share — were reversed in the second half.

Sales in the second half, adjusting for the fact that there was one extra week's trading the previous year, increased by 7.4 per cent, which included a volume gain of 2 1/2 to 3 per cent in non-foods. Growth came in women's and children's clothing and BHS managed to restore gross margins.

The higher throughput enhanced profits and the group also benefited from a rise of only 6 per cent in payroll costs, reflecting a cut in part-time staff.

Improved liquidity and a much bigger contribution from the Savacentre joint venture with Sainsbury also helped the group to push up profits.

Savacentre, where BHS has now invested £21m and five stores have been opened, increased its contribution from £229,000 to £1.5m despite about £500,000 of pre-opening costs. No further stores have yet been announced.

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Sir Maurice Hodgson, new chairman of British Home Stores

Neil discards profit forecast

Neil & Spencer, the laundry and textile equipment manufacturer, says it will not make a profit forecast, made in its rights issue circular because of unexpected delays and adverse factors affecting its Spencer Westair subsidiary.

Shareholders at yesterday's annual and extraordinary meetings were told that the forecasts should be disregarded and that although the board had not been able to prepare revised forecasts, the issue would none the less proceed.

After a gross loss of £1.7m in the year to last November, the board said in the circular that first half losses in the six months to May would be £500,000, offset by a return to profitability in the second half.

The rights issue is on the basis of one for two at 12p a share to raise a net £534,000 which will be used to cut bank borrowings. The shares plunged from 17p to the 12p rights price after being suspended pending the announcement.

Baring Brothers has confirmed that it will continue to underwrite the issue although sub-underwriters will be given the opportunity to be released from their commitments.

The group is urging shareholders to consider carefully whether or not to take up their entitlement to acquire the rights issue. The only substantial interest in the group is a 5.1 per cent stake held by Outch Investment Trust.

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Name change for Tubes

Tube Investments has spent £47m in the last two years to close factories including British Aluminium's Invergowrie smelter, and to make 16,000 employees redundant. But the resulting increase in productivity has not helped the group's profits because it has been swallowed up by customers' demands for ever more competitive prices.

Reporting this to the annual meeting at Birmingham yesterday, Sir Brian Kellett, chairman of TI Group, said 1981 being the first annual loss in the group's history (£23.1m pretax) there were now clear signs that the worst was over.

But he admitted that there were still no indications of a significant upturn in business. He said a strong pointer for the future was TI's retention of sufficient capacity to achieve considerable higher output with relatively small additions to costs when market conditions strengthened.

The meeting approved without dissent a recommendation that the company's name should be changed from Tube Investments to TI Group. Shareholders were told that for several years now the group had been referred to widely in the City as Tubes. In practice tube manufacturing had long ceased to be a dominant activity.

Mr Ernest Crouch, production manager of Purmright Controls, a subsidiary company, objected to the change in the articles of association requiring TI directors to hold a minimum of £250 worth of shares.

INTERNATIONAL



UNITED STATES
Pay in 1982
'will top inflation'

Salaries are likely to outpace inflation this year for the first time in three years, according to a national survey of 640 companies by the management consulting firm.

Most employees will be receiving pay rises only slightly lower than those budgeted by employers last autumn.

Since then, inflation has declined sharply, allowing employees to recoup real earnings losses between 1979 and 1982 when rising costs exceeded planned salary increases.

US steel will temporarily shut down its Fairfield, Alabama mill this week for only the third time in the mill's history and lay off several hundred employees.

Mr James B. Edwards, United States Secretary of Energy, is planning to resign at the end of June, according to the Washington Post. He plans to accept a position at the University of South Carolina, the Post added.

JAPAN

The Development Bank of Japan is considering lending for the first time to a wholly foreign-owned company operating in Japan.

It is awaiting a formal application for the loan from Fairchild Japan Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation of the United States.

The move is seen as helping to ease trade friction with the West.

Kawasaki Steel Corp and Sumitomo Metal Industries have raised their steel prices to major domestic users by an average of 5.2 to 5.4 per cent effective from contracts for June/July shipments.

Three Mitsubishi group companies have won a Yen 35,000m (about £7.125m) order from Tunisian gas and power corporation, Societe Tunisienne De L'electricite et Du Gaz, for the supply of a 340,000-kilowatt thermoelectric power plant.

Toshiba Corporation and Mitsui Company have jointly received a letter of intent from East Germany for the purchase of Yen 10,000m (£2.232m) plant to manufacture radio/cassette tape recorders in East Berlin.

A formal contract is likely to be signed later this month.

WEST GERMANY

West Germany's seasonally adjusted industrial production declined 1 per cent in March, from February, the economics ministry reported yesterday on the basis of preliminary statistics.

The March production index stood at 106 (1976 equals 100) down from a February index of 107 and unchanged from a January index of 107.

In the first quarter, West German preliminary seasonally adjusted industrial production was unchanged from the fourth quarter of 1981 but down about 1.85 per cent from the year-earlier quarter with first quarter 1982 index at 106.

SWEDEN

Mr Thorbjörn Fälldin, the Prime Minister, yesterday expressed confidence in the nation's economy. He told a meeting of the Swedish retail trade association, Kopmanförbundet: "Inflation is on its way down, the current account deficit is narrowing, and the Swedish industry is better equipped than it has been in a long time."

ITALY

Fiat yesterday re-employed 40,000 workers it had laid off for one week because of growing stocks and weak demand. But the group, Italy's largest private employer, has already said 40,000 workers will be suspended for another week in June. In Italy laid-off workers receive about 30 per cent of their normal salary through a special state fund.

MEXICO

Consumer prices rose by a record 5.4 per cent in April from the month before, the Mexican Central Bank said. The increase for the first four months of the year was 19.2 per cent or close to 70 per cent compounded on an annual basis.

Prices have been rising since February when the Central Bank let the peso float. It subsequently fell by 40 per cent against the dollar and is now worth about two cents.

SOUTH AFRICA

The deficit on South Africa's balance of payments is expected to be Rand 3,600m (£1,922m) in 1982, down from Rand 5,000m (£2,632m) in 1981. Earnings from gold, which account for almost half the nation's total export revenues, will be about the same this year as the Rand 8,400m total in 1981. Non-gold exports are expected to rise by 18 per cent to Rand 11,000m this year.

The club prepares to open its doors



The dealing floor at the London Stock Exchange: outsiders could force the pace of change

It rarely matters to those who earn their living as stock exchange members whether the market is moving up or down. Even when it is moving it can often be a reflection of how much stock the jobbers have on board rather than of whether investors are actively buying or selling. For, apart from personal share dealing which can occasionally supplement a broker's income, what is important is the volume of trading. Until recently it has been flat.

There was a time when as a rule of thumb, no stockbroker was making any profit, unless the turnover was more than £57m daily. But with the rising salaries, the increased cost of maintaining a London office and increased incidental expenses attracted to being a member of one of the world's most exclusive clubs, the figure is now £100m.

The exclusivity of that club is about to be broken wide open. After years of resistance, the 46-member ruling Stock Exchange Council, headed by chairman Sir Nicholas Goodison, has decided to allow outside share holders to own up to 30 per cent of a broker or jobber. The limit had been 10 per cent.

The official reason for the move is to help members increase their capital base enabling them to attract new cash. At present cash comes from one of two sources. If the firm is a partnership, the money comes from individuals. Any cash which is required is obtained either by making bright young men into partners — assuming they have the money — or asking individual partners to increase the level of their unlimited liability for any short-term transaction.

If the firm is a corporate body, such as Akroyd and Smith or Smith Brothers, sources of new cash were almost the same as those open to any other public company, except that 90 per cent of the equity had to be controlled by Stock Exchange members.

When the details of the 30 per cent rule appear before the end of the year, it should be clear that although the brokers and jobbers will be able to raise the extra cash they say is needed, it will be

The Number of Stock Exchange Firms

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Stockbroking Firms	355	284	269	260	256	245	240	234	221
Jobbing Firms	24	21	21	20	20	20	19	19	17

Turnover — total value securities traded £ million

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
66,753	84,036	106,433	173,333	138,769	168,936	196,289	190,666		

at the expense of diluted profits and a lesser say in how the business is run. The rules are not being seen in isolation. They come at a time when those at the sharp end of the business are gearing up for one of the biggest changes in the way in which shares are bought and sold since the provincial stockbrokers were banned from acting as jobbers when all exchanges were merged in 1973.

Not only are the brokers earning insufficient from dealing commissions on share bargains — many still feel the recent stock exchange review of minimum commissions failed to increase them enough — but the whole system is presently the subject of a reference to the Restrictive Practices Court.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is prosecuting all 4,000 members of the exchange individually — although in practice they will be able to elect a spokesman — for that section of the stock exchange rule book which states that stockbrokers must only act as agents, and jobbers must act only as principals. It is felt

the system represents a restrictive practice. Although the exchange and the OFT have been trading blows through evidence for about three years and those salaried members of the stock exchange administration do not expect the first court appearance for at least a further two, sentiment on the trading floor is changing.

Until recently the dealers shared the view from the stock exchange's 24-floor offices in the tower that it (the exchange) would win its case. Now, there is an increasing feeling that it has no hope of winning and member firms are looking into how they can organize business after the OFT case along the lines enthusiastically described as dual capacity, where jobbers and brokers act both as principals and agents.

There have even been suggestions that exchange officials have been working secretly on draft rules for dual capacity. Predictably these have been dismissed as "absolute nonsense".

The OFT case and the 30 per cent rule are seen as being linked. If merchant banks and others which now

take a percentage commission for the business which goes through them, see the chance of being allowed to act as a principle, taking an initial slice of a broker could appear attractive.

Of course there are those who would say that Britain is once again following the United States, and the rationalization in the broking community here follows a pattern well established in New York.

Though true in part it is a deceptive comparison. The major force for change in the United States, at least among those firms which survived the speculative orgy and paperwork problems of the late 1960s, was the abolition of minimum commissions in the early 1970s, which introduced a ferocious blast of competition.

Firms undercut each other desperately, and over the decade this polarized the profession — to survive they became very large with a vast volume of business at low commission rates, or alternatively small, specialized, with tight control of overheads. So though the competitive pressure exists in the United

New factor in the gold picture

Kingdom it is on nothing like the scale of Wall Street. The second development, and one which owes much to the drive of the American Secretary to the Treasury, Donald Regan, who was at the time number one at Merrill Lynch — the largest American broking firm — was to move beyond stockbroking. Largely because American banks are hampered from operating nationally he was able to spot the vacuum and develop his firm into a nationwide financial services group, offering everything from life assurance to mortgages, commodity trading, to money funds and even credit cards.

It was this firm's astonishing success in moving beyond its traditional areas which forced its rivals to respond and led directly to the emergence of such enlightened Wall Street last year. These included the acquisition of the number two firm Shearson Loeb Rhoades by American Express, and another giant Drexel Burnham Lambert, by Sears.

The American picture therefore is one of financial supermarkets — where the client can have all his financial needs catered for. And this too is a long way from present British developments where the rules of the City are geared to keeping experts to their last — bankers stick to banking, brokers to broking and so on.

But one thing which the American experience does suggest is that when you allow outsiders to become shareholders — as has been the case on Wall Street for years — it does force the pace of change. And that is a lesson the stock market authorities here should be aware of.

But the immediate problem for Britain is one of size. The consensus opinion is that whatever happens long term, there is no room for a medium-sized broking firm. The smaller partnerships feel they will survive on their private client dealing, the large will continue to draw strength from their heavy spending City contracts. The only avenue left for those in the middle is to merge.

Philip Robinson

Access

One is that this is the second time within a few years that a country has had access to the foreign currency portion of its external reserves circumscribed just when this was particularly cause for embarrassment.

The other, less obvious reason is that the repercussions of the Anglo-Argentine tussle have rumbled round in a way those of other countries' currencies have not. The possibility of a country's entire holding of reserve currencies being caught up in an international political confrontation — if it has taken care to ensure that all the eggs are not in the same basket.

The decision of other leading countries to respond to Britain's call for economic sanctions against Argentina, has not led to the freezing of Argentine reserves held with them. But it has become evident that such a comprehensive stop could come about in such circumstances if feeling ran high enough.

The more that, I suspect, many countries are going to draw from this tale, is that there is more to be said than they had previously supposed for keeping a reasonably substantial proportion of external reserves in the one form broadly immune from the backwash of international political entanglements — gold — even if this means sacrificing interest that could be earned on currency balances.

If so, the great buoyancy of the gold price has been manifesting of late could be more than a passing phenomenon.

Alternative

Between them, these two developments have strengthened the case for opting for the principal alternative to gold in the international reserves business — bank balances held in globally usable currencies like the dollar, the pound and the Deutschmark. This is because, by pushing interest rates beyond inflation rate, they have begun to provide holders of reserves expressed in currencies with a real return — directly the interest they earned was more than offset by the inflationary erosion of their capital. That, of course, is something that a stock of gold in a central bank's vault cannot be counted upon to do.

It is into the store of wealth aspect of the gold

Enzymes eat up investors' cash

The much-heralded scientific and business revolution to be engendered through biotechnology always had a futuristic flavour. It has become increasingly clear recently that profits to be earned from such processes are also unlikely to materialize for some years yet.

Millions of dollars have been poured into the field in America and millions are likely to be lost. Many companies specializing in the area are in deep financial trouble.

In 1980, biotechnology appeared to have staked out half a dozen major industries, each of which would be transformed by new manufacturing processes based on cell culture, genetic engineering, or the catalysing powers of enzymes. In many, new products would emerge shortly to earn high profits.

Biotech revolutionaries could still be heard in London in March. An American forecaster, Mr Theodore Sheets Junior, announced that the world market for biotechnology products would be worth \$64.3 billion by the year 2000.

Mr Sheets said that the biggest single market sector, for energy products, would be worth \$16.3 billion, and that the industry's growth from current values would be 2,592-fold.

Meanwhile, serious financial and scientific pitfalls have beset many biotech ventures in the United States and, to a lesser extent, Europe.

In Britain, City institutions



are believed to have responded sceptically to Government invitations to form a consortium which would launch a company to exploit British agricultural applications of biotechnology. Only 18 months ago, such a partnership pooled £13m to create Celltech, a company specializing in medical biotech.

In the United States, symptoms of a traumatic biotech shakeout are well advanced. One of the most prudent and established companies, Bethesda Research Laboratories, has sacked 135 of its 410 employees, postponed a first public launch, and raised in Europe \$5.5m from debenture sales.

Six publicly-quoted companies — from Bio-Response of Connecticut to Vitrotek of California — are encountering difficulties. Others have ceased recruitment and begun a frantic search for a second phase development capital.

Although the money is drying up, the ideas are still fermenting; patent applications are at record levels. Bio-Response claims to have perfected a valuable mass culture technique, and Enzo Biochem hopes products introduced last month will begin to eliminate operating losses which, in the last quarter of 1981, amounted to \$418,000. But both companies' fortunes illustrate that the pace of scientific research and development has to be synchronised with the expectations of venture capital.

Only about six out of approximately 30 biotech companies to have raised capital on the American markets will survive the next year, according to Douglas Rogers of the US investment bankers Kidder Peabody. The top six are already thought to have attracted 70 per cent of biotech investment.

"The same companies that raised equity so easily a few months ago are running out of cash," said Rogers. "Their overheads and research and development costs are killing them and most aren't close to producing products that could be profitable."

In similar vein, the London brokers Rowe and Pitman have warned investors to beware of an industry in which a surfeit of venture capital has chased limited opportunities.

Large Corporations anxious to reinforce in-house programmes have been among the pack of investors, taking equity stakes to add to the influence their research

contracts exert. With money markets reluctant to invest, survival for many biotech enterprises may entail absorption into the biggest food, drug and chemical firms.

These were the industries which biotech's breathless prophets claimed would be revolutionized. "It was sheer delusion to lay claim to entire markets," an American analyst, Mr Stuart Stearns, claimed last month.

Mr Stearns expresses an emerging consensus: researchers need 10 to 15 years to perfect technologies which be of modest value compared with the claims of two years ago. Capital has in many cases been invested without a proper appreciation of the time scales involved.

Investors have commonly assumed a return of between 20 to 30 per cent after five to seven years. Even if innovative biotechnologies mature in double that time, their developers may discover that researchers in traditional

technologies have been equally resourceful. "Industries will defend themselves against attempts to make their products or processes obsolete," said Mr Stearns. "The targets won't stand still."

Dr John Walker, a London investment manager, who helped set up a number of biotech ventures, believes the business structures, products, profit targets and research programmes of the food, health care, chemical and waste processing industries are incompatible with a biotech revolution.

Circumstances can change, of course, and opportunities await companies seeking to overnight success. Dr Walker estimates that there is scope for new and profitable pharmaceutical veterinary products, for example; but biotech, on a macro-industrial scale, replacing existing products, faces a long and testing march.

Helen Barker

Recession grounds US aircraft industry

New York, May 10. — The United States airline slump is in its fourth year, and no improvement is expected until 1983 at the earliest. Industry executives say surviving lines will not be restructured and ready to buy new planes until 1985.

American Airlines has cancelled orders for 15 Boeing 757 jets worth \$600m (£333m) and dropped options to buy another 15.

United Airlines, meanwhile, has told Boeing to stop work on 20 Boeing 767s, valued at more than \$40m each, until Congress decides whether to retain sale and leaseback tax benefits in 1981.

One by one, airlines have cancelled options to buy Lockheed L-1011 TriStar jets costing \$50m to \$60m each. The cancelled options could cover more than \$2,000m of aircraft. As a result, Lockheed decided to phase out production of the planes and leave the commercial aircraft business entirely.



A Boeing 757 nears completion but buyers are scarce

Derchin, an aerospace analyst with First Boston Corp. For aerospace companies, stepped-up orders for military planes should help. But most companies expect additional cancellations or delivery delays before things improve. And for thousands of workers, 1982 shaping up as a year of production cuts, layoffs and anxiety.

McDonnell Douglas does not have a single order for 1983 delivery of DC10s, and expects deliveries this year to skid to nine from 19 in 1981 and 40 in 1980. In the past year, the company has slashed the workforce at its Long Beach, California plant and at its machine shops in Torrance, California, to 18,723, a 26 per cent cut.

The company is counting on U.S. Government orders

for the military version of the DC10, to keep its Long Beach production lines open until the commercial aircraft market recovers. The defence budget for 1983 proposes eight KC10s. In addition McDonnell Douglas had previous orders for 16 KC10s of the Air Force, which has indicated it wants 60 of the planes in all.

The company says, however, that if DC10 orders remain small and annual production of the KC10 is low, it could be forced to close the assembly line.

The continuing fall in airlines' earnings, Lockheed officials say, has only confirmed the wisdom of their decision in December to phase out production of the L-1011 TriStar commercial jet.

Meanwhile, Boeing executives consider delivery postponements more likely than cancellations because financial penalties are incurred when orders already in production are halted. Last year, profits from Boeing's commercial airline business plunged to \$308.1m from \$677.6m.

— AP Dow-Jones.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr John A. Champion, formerly senior vice-president (Treasury) of Barclays Bank International, New York, has been appointed managing director of Barclays Futures, through which Barclays will operate on the London International Financial Futures Exchange.

Mr Anton Klener, managing director of UB Restaurants, is joining the board of United Investment.

Mr T. G. King has joined Barmah Oil Exploration to head the company's new UK operating group which has been formed to manage exploration interests on the North Sea.

Mr Brian Wood has been appointed to the board of Solihull based Foster Brothers Clothing and as managing director of the group's main subsidiary, Foster Menswear.

Mr Harold A. Whitall has joined the board of LRC International as a non-executive director.

Mr Ernest E. Taylor has been named as group financial director of Stroud Riley Drummond.

Mr Peter Skouen has joined the board of Hambros Bank.

Mr Martin W. Crowe has become treasury director of Henry Ansbacher.

Mr E. Galbraith, Mr R. R. Paton, Mr D. Plews and Mr A. W. Scorgie have been made directors of James M. Macalester & Alton.

Mr D. G. Nunnerley and Mr D.

J. Fawn have been named as assistant directors of Wilson, Smitheth & Cope.

Mr D. W. J. Farrell has been elected chairman of Fleming, American Investment Trust.

Mr G. J. A. Jamieson has been appointed a director.

Mr Christopher H. Davies has been appointed marketing and sales director of Malm Floors.

Mr John E. Cama has succeeded Mr Peter Barrington as senior partner of Cameron Markby.

Mr Charles Beauchamp, managing director of postal services at the Post Office and member of finance, will become a part-time board member from August 1.

Base Lending Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crds	13%
C. Hoare & Co	13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
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Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
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The Over-the-Counter Market

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There were some voters who thought that the Pacific League was a real replica of the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives was the only one of the three branches of the federal government that was not elected by the people. The House of Representatives was the only one of the three branches of the federal government that was not elected by the people. The House of Representatives was the only one of the three branches of the federal government that was not elected by the people.

Greenwood's 40 of the best

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

On Friday Ron Greenwood will unveil his official list of 40 England players for the World Cup. Yesterday, five days ahead of schedule, he pulled the curtain aside by announcing a provisional squad of 40 to take part in the six warm-up games before June 4, the day on which he must submit to FIFA his final party of 22.

Mr Greenwood described his selection, with a main cast of 30 and a supporting group of 10, as "the people who represent the best in English football". Although two of the 27 he picked for the qualifying matches, Birtles and Cunningham, are omitted and nine uncapped players are included, the selection, as expected, is built on experience.

More than half of them, though, will not be able to represent the national team. The training headquarters in Herefordshire next Monday, the provisional squad of 40 to take part in the six warm-up games before June 4, the day on which he must submit to FIFA his final party of 22.

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Perryman...deserving case

Butcher is Thompson's likely partner in midfield, with Watson and Martin the favourites to deputise. Mariner, should he prove fit, is expected to lead the attack, his rivals being Wigan and Regis. Barnes, returning from the wilderness at his club and now his country, becomes a contender for Morley's place as a balance for Coppell on the wing.

Goddard, West Ham United's young striker and the only uncapped member among the 40, is unlikely to go to Spain, in that case he will be comforted by the words offered by Mr Greenwood, who still fondly remembers the day he was picked for England's World Cup squad. "Life is all about tomorrow," he said.

Caton, the long teenager to be chosen, is the only player to look forward to tomorrow along with Lee, Shaw, Crooks, Statham and particularly Bailey. Among those who were in the squad of yesterday is Perryman, deservedly voted player of the match by the footballers' association. Like Mortimer, a player of international recognition at the age of 30.



Pender...deserving case

Armstrong, notably, returns to the fold after winning his only cap against Australia two years ago but, as a left-sided midfielder, must wait behind the elder brother, who has been in the Devonshire. The immediate dates he has to face are on May 19, for Brian Little at Villa Park, and May 21, for Les Strong at Craven Cottage.



Whiteside in squad

Norman Whiteside, aged 17, who only a fortnight ago bested the third youngest player ever to appear for Manchester United, is included in the Northern Ireland squad of 40 players for the World Cup finals. The list will be pruned down to 22 later this month.

Neill snubs Argentines

Terry Neill, the Arsenal manager, yesterday made it clear that he will not be a part of the Republic of Ireland's friendly match against Argentina on May 12. He said he was "not interested in the match" and would not be attending.

Monaco clinch title

A goal 28 minutes from time by midfielder player, Jean-Pierre Estrosi, clinched the French League title for Monaco in exciting fashion.

US win world team prize in buoyant style

The United States won the \$3,000 first prize by beating Australia 1-0 in the final of the World Team Cup competition.

Pitch is the real winner



Gavaskar turns the ball off his toes during a typically fluent 172

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

In six hours yesterday 477 runs were scored at getting on for their own. Until now Willis's top score in something like 270 innings had been 42. Ferrera's previous best was 116 for Northern Transvaal against Eastern Province in the winter of 1980-81.

Knowles is pressed hard by Charlton

By Sidney Friskin

Tony Knowles of Bolton was out of the fray from a place in the semi-final round of the world professional championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday. He had built himself a 10-6 lead over Eddie Charlton of Australia in this 25-frame match which ended today.

Villa take care to avoid trouble

Aston Villa yesterday announced that their allocation of 13,000 tickets for the European Cup final against Bayern Munich in Rotterdam on May 26 will be distributed only through their official travel agents.

Break-up of Forest's double act leaves the outlook unsettled

The long, close partnership of Brian Clough, manager of Nottingham Forest, and his assistant Peter Taylor, which began at Halesworth in 1965 is over.

Clough may seek a new stage

He is not obsessed with mirror reflections. He has tended to deliver what he promises, though things have gone wrong, though he has been criticised for his lack of success, nor was he too careful in his choice of enemies which suggested a pose to gain notoriety.

US win world team prize in buoyant style

The United States won the \$3,000 first prize by beating Australia 1-0 in the final of the World Team Cup competition.

Scores and results

We regret that production difficulties prevented the publication of some cricket scores and other results in The Times yesterday.

Supporters in 120-mile race for replay tickets

There were extraordinary scenes yesterday at three northern grounds as Hull supporters fought tickets for Saturday's Rugby League Challenge Cup final replay between Hull and Widnes.

British opponent for Bruno

Frank Bruno will face his first British opponent after starting his career against four successive Americans at the Albert Hall, on June 1.

Villeneuve spoke of crash

Twenty-four hours before his fatal crash, Gilles Villeneuve spoke prophetically to a Belgian newspaper, L'Espresso. He said: "It's normal to have one or two accidents in a season. I know I risk ending myself in hospital. This does not frighten me, because I am aware of the risks. But there are times when one cannot do anything. If at Zolder my car skids, all I can do is to call mama and cross myself."

McLaren to appeal

Zolder, May 10. The British Grand Prix driver, who was fined £10,000 and suspended for three months for driving his McLaren 1800 cc Formula 1 car at 180 mph on the 1.9 km track at Zolder, Belgium, on May 10, has appealed against the decision to strip the title from him.

Leslie misses tour

David Leslie, the Galt flanker who broke his leg on February 13 playing against Harlequins, has given up the fight to be fit to join the Scottish party to tour Australia.

Miller's benefit

Port Vale entertain Manchester City tonight in a benefit for John Miller who has had to retire from football because of injury.

Final sponsored

The Scottish Cup final between Aberdeen and Rangers is to be sponsored again this year, to the tune of £20,000.

Miller's benefit

Port Vale entertain Manchester City tonight in a benefit for John Miller who has had to retire from football because of injury.

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Legal Appointments

Assistant Borough Solicitor

P.O. £14,367 to £15,669 (incl.)

Applications are invited from experienced Local Government Solicitors for this second tier post in the Legal Service. The successful applicant will deputise for the Borough Solicitor in his absence and in addition to contributing to the management of the Service will be expected to undertake a wide range of duties with particular emphasis on property law, planning and Parliamentary work. Some Committee attendance will be required.

The Legal Service is situated in a modern office block close to Wood Green Underground Station and convenient to British Rail. The post carries a casual user car allowance and additional payment is made for attendance at evening Committee meetings.

Further particulars, job description and an application form are obtainable from the Borough Solicitor, 35 Station Road, Wood Green, London N22 (tel 881 3000, ext 3543), who will be pleased to discuss the post informally with interested applicants.

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